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FULL-PAGE PHOTOS
ENTIRE ROSTER

Game Face

Official Magazine of the Cleveland Indians

BIG LEAGUE BREAKTHROUGH

One Player's
Path to Stardom

GRADY SIZEMORE

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

The Stuff it Takes
to Be a Ballplayer

& MORE



COCO CRISP

How to Lay Down a Bunt



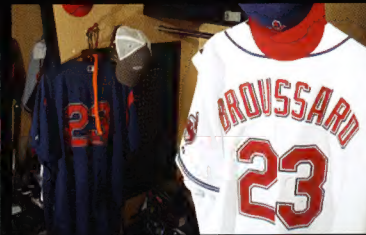
C.C. SABATHIA

Baseball's Superstitions



CASEY BLAKE

What Kids Want to Know



PEEK INSIDE

Broussard's Locker

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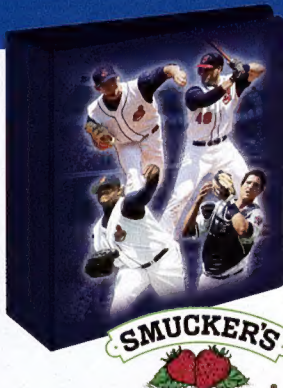
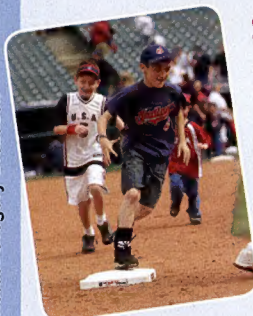
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WHAT I'VE LEARNED IN THE BIG LEAGUES

In the world of Major League Baseball things come at you fast. But Grady Sizemore's a quick study — earning him success on the field and adoration off it. That doesn't mean he's not subject to a few veteran pranks every now and then. We take a look at this rising star's initiation to the team.

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TOOLS OF THE TRADE

On any given day the Indians storage room holds 1,000 to 1,500 bats. There are also balls, gloves, shoes and much more. That's a lot of stuff. We find out what these baseball players need to get the job done right.

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BATTER'S UP

Looking for a place where you can order a classic beverage and get a close-up view of the action on the field? The Batter's Eye Bar has got it. Find out what else Jacobs Field's newest hot spot has to offer.

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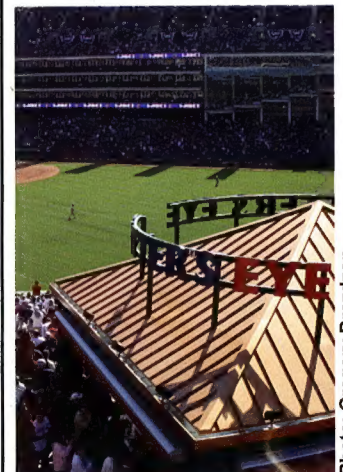
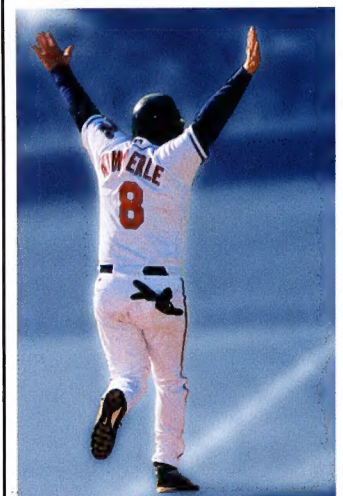


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Photo: Gregory Drezdson



Daring to Dream

Children have dreams and ambitions of what they will be when they grow up. No matter what they wish to be, a firefighter, a lawyer, a doctor, or a baseball player, each dream is precious. At the young age of four, I announced to my family that I wanted to be a ballerina or a police woman; Eric had dreams of becoming a baseball player. That is the right of every child, to look forward to a bright and wonderful future that is long lasting. That is what CureSearch is working so hard to ensure.

CureSearch is an organization that unites two amazing groups, The National Childhood Cancer Foundation (NCCF) and The Children's Oncology Group (COG). Together they stand by a strong mission "to raise public awareness and funds for conquering childhood cancer, which directly contribute to increasing cancer survival rates." Their goal will be achieved on the day every child with cancer can be guaranteed a cure. This would be a wonderful day for the over 12,500 children that are diagnosed each year.

Cancer is the #1 disease killer of children. This is why finding a cure is so essential, and it is both exciting and encouraging that everyday we come closer to reaching that goal! Funds raised through CureSearch are used in many different ways such as conducting research, identifying cancer causes, and pioneering new treatments and cures. It is stated that the current rate of curable childhood cancer is 78%. However, it is believed that through continued research and funding this number could be increased to 85% by 2008!

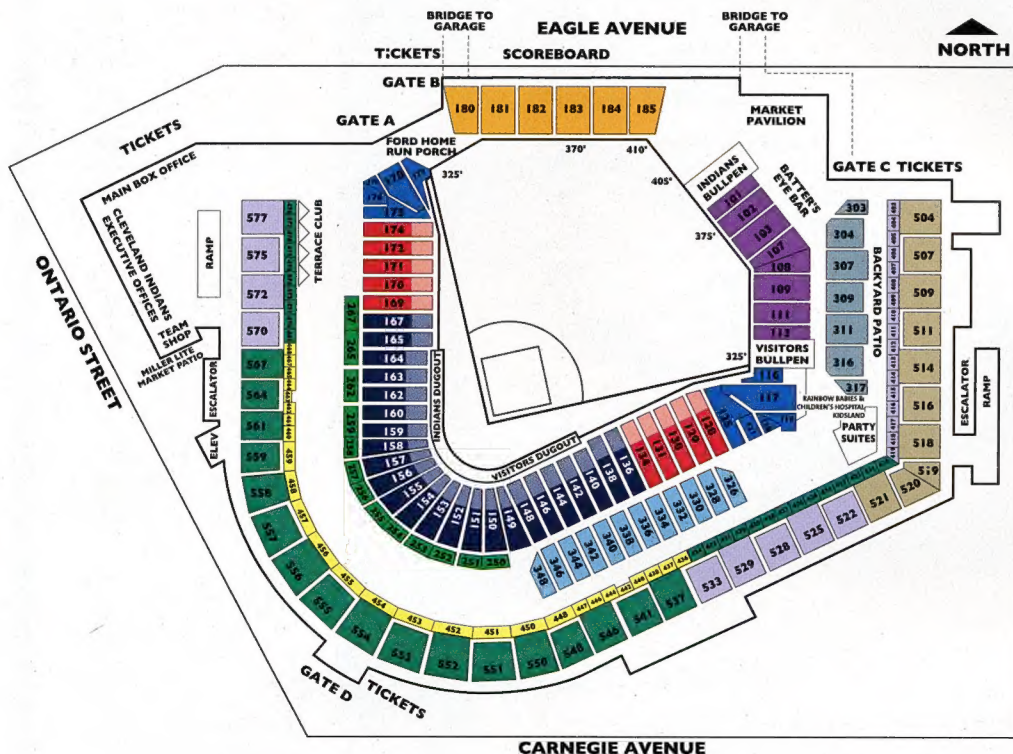
CureSearch offers many valuable services including a state-of-the-art website that offers up-to-date information on childhood cancer. Curesearch.org provides research data, customized information and support to site visitors tailored to a child's age, diagnosis, and treatments. This site has become a reliable and credible resource for those children with cancer, cancer survivors and their families.

We are praying that the time will come when looking for answers and desperately searching for a cure is far behind us. Until that time, we are truly thankful for organizations such as this that can help these children make their youthful dreams once again become a reality. To find out more about CureSearch and to learn how you can help, please visit www.curesearch.org.

Kate Wedge



It is stated that the current rate of curable childhood cancer is 78%. However, it is believed that through continued research and funding this number could be increased to 85% by 2008!

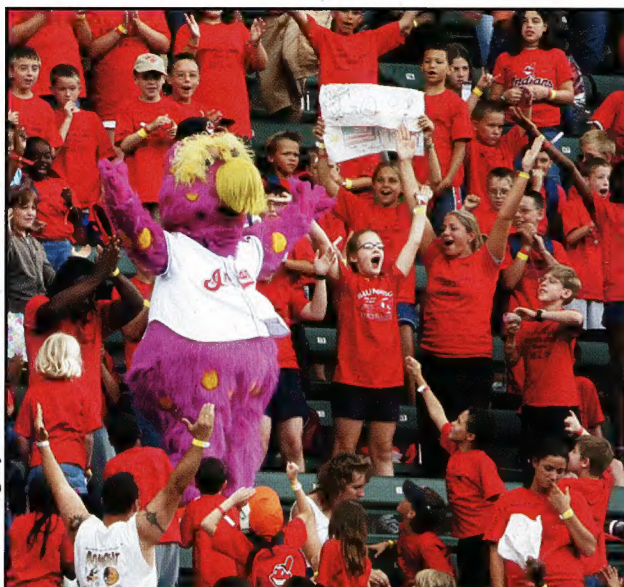


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Check out Page 6 for more details on the Tribe's promotional schedule.

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Win, Lose, or LUCK?

There are baseball superstitions for every aspect of the game, *but do they work?*

I T HAS BEEN RUMORED THAT Ty Cobb carried his bat everywhere—even on his wedding day. While some players are very superstitious like Cobb, others laugh at the idea, but according to Jody Gerut, "Everybody has them."

But admitting superstitions is not high on other players' lists. If Aaron Boone has any superstitions, he is not letting on. "It's not a superstition if you tell someone," he says.

#1 STEPPING ON FOUL LINES

Some believe it is bad luck to step on foul lines.

Rafael Betancourt: "I jump the foul line. Players always have to do it. I see most of the pitchers do it."

C.C. Sabathia: "I never do that. I always step on and off the field with my left foot first."

#2 TAPPING HOME PLATE THREE TIMES WITH BAT

Doing this before each at-bat is rumored to bring good luck.

Kevin Millwood: "I never heard of that."

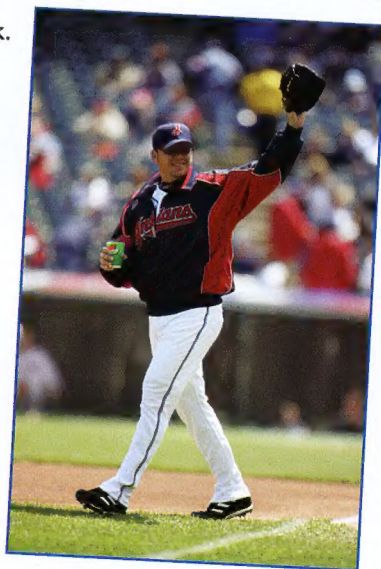
C.C. Sabathia: "No, I just get up there and whack it."

#3 FIXING UNIFORM BETWEEN EVERY PITCH

A set routine or ritual helps to calm and focus players.

Rafael Betancourt: "No," he says, but he has a routine with his locker. "I put everything in the same spot."

C.C. Sabathia: "I try not to get in the same routine. I haven't done the same thing twice."



#4 NOT WASHING UNIFORM, SOCKS OR JOCK STRAP

Some players believe it is bad luck to wash items if they are doing well.

Kevin Millwood: "I always wash my uniform. No one wants to be around you if you don't."

Rafael Betancourt: "I honestly can't do that," he says of not washing his uniform. "I try to use

the same socks or sliding shorts. I try to see what's going to work."

#5 EATING SAME MEAL BEFORE EVERY GAME

Wade Boggs ate chicken before every game, hoping it would bring him good luck.

C.C. Sabathia: "I used to be like that," he says of eating Wendy's before every start.

Rafael Betancourt: "I try to eat ice cream after every game."

— Kim Schneider

All photos: Gregory Drezdson

Q&A with C.C. Sabathia

Q: What's your typical routine for days between starts?

A: The day after I pitch is basically just running and lifting. You run quarter poles (sprints through the outfield), do a little strength training and then do a shoulder routine with weights. (Indians trainer Lonnie Soloff) has me do a few things just to strengthen the shoulder. That's really about it. The second day is a bullpen session. I throw 35-38 pitches and face two hitters, one righty and one lefty. Day Three is another lifting day. I lift weights and ride the bike for 20 or 30 minutes.

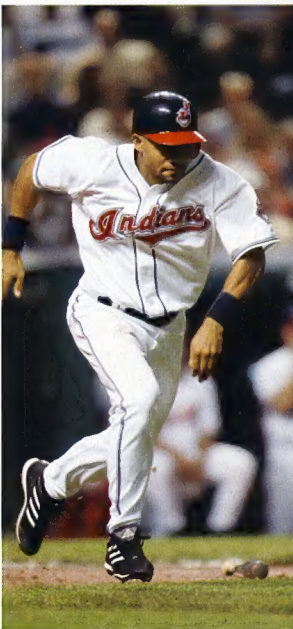
Q: What happens after you're pulled from a game?

A: I'll sit in the dugout and watch the rest of the game, except for when I'm in the shower. And if it's at home, we have a radio in there. So I'll listen to Hammy (Tom Hamilton) on the radio. I'll ice my arm, take a shower, then watch the rest of the game and then meet with the media.

Q: Is there any particular food, or food group, you eat on days you start?

A: Not really. My wife just cooks up whatever. But I do eat a lot of chicken. I usually get a good breakfast and lunch in me, since I'm not going to eat dinner. I usually wake up about 9 a.m. and get a good breakfast and make sure I'm fueled up. Then it's off to the park.

— Jason Lloyd



HOW TO: LAY DOWN THE PERFECT BUNT

With Coco Crisp

COCO CRISP HAS BECOME A fixture in the Indians' lineup this season. The switch-hitting outfielder has brought an assortment of talents to the offense. Crisp can hit for a high average, drive in runs, and add speed on the bases.

Crisp, who usually hits near the top of the order, has made bunting part of his game. Whether it's attempting to sacrifice a runner along or trying for a hit, he knows bunting can be the difference between a win and a loss.

"It's obviously a very important part of the game," says Crisp. "When you're called upon to put the bunt down, you need to do it."

The approach: As with any aspect of hitting, the batter needs to have the proper mechanics. "You need to get the bat out in front of you," says Crisp. "You don't want to get the bat head beneath the handle. You scoot up in the box. That way you have a bigger angle from foul line to foul line to get it down. Most people don't square around. You pivot and then turn."

The sacrifice: Crisp says a bunter must be more precise when trying to get a sacrifice down than when he's trying for a hit. "There's less margin for error," he says. "You really need to get the ball down in the right spot because you're trying to get the runner over." It also depends on what base the runners are on. "When there's a runner on second, you want

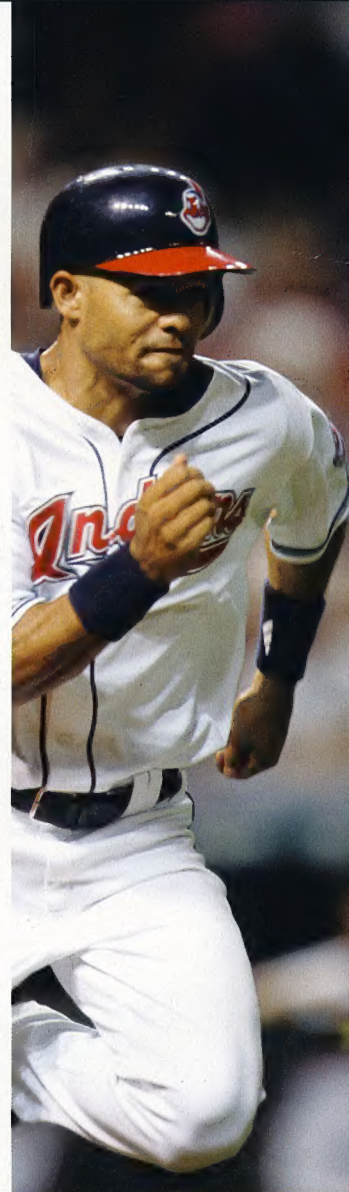
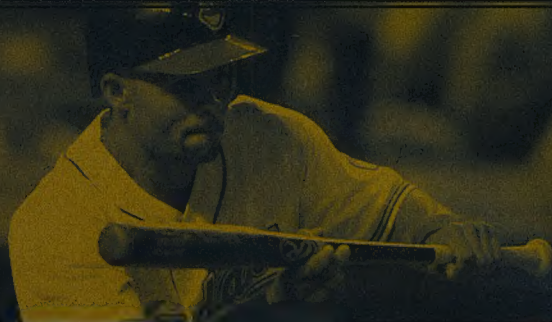
to make the third baseman field the ball," says Crisp. "If you get it to him, his only play is probably at first. When there's a runner at first, you want to make the first baseman field the ball. He has a much tougher throw to second than he does to first."

The base hit: Unlike the sacrifice sign, which comes from the dugout, hitters usually bunt on their own when it comes to trying for a hit. "I look around before I step in and see where the infielders are playing," says Crisp. "The third baseman might be one step closer, which gives you a chance to hit it by him." Crisp has the advantage of bunting from either side of the plate. "I bunt more from the left side than the right since I get more at-bats from that side," he says. "I can try to drag it past the pitcher if I'm batting left-handed."

The strategy: There's a time to bunt and a time not to bunt. "With two outs and a runner on second, you're not going to bunt," Crisp says. "You want to drive the run in. With no outs and a man on second, you would think about it. If you get him over to third, he can score on a sacrifice fly and if you beat it out, he could even score on a double play."

Coco's key: "You have to relax and let the ball hit the bat," he says. "If you think about it too much, you might not get it down."

— Steve Herrick



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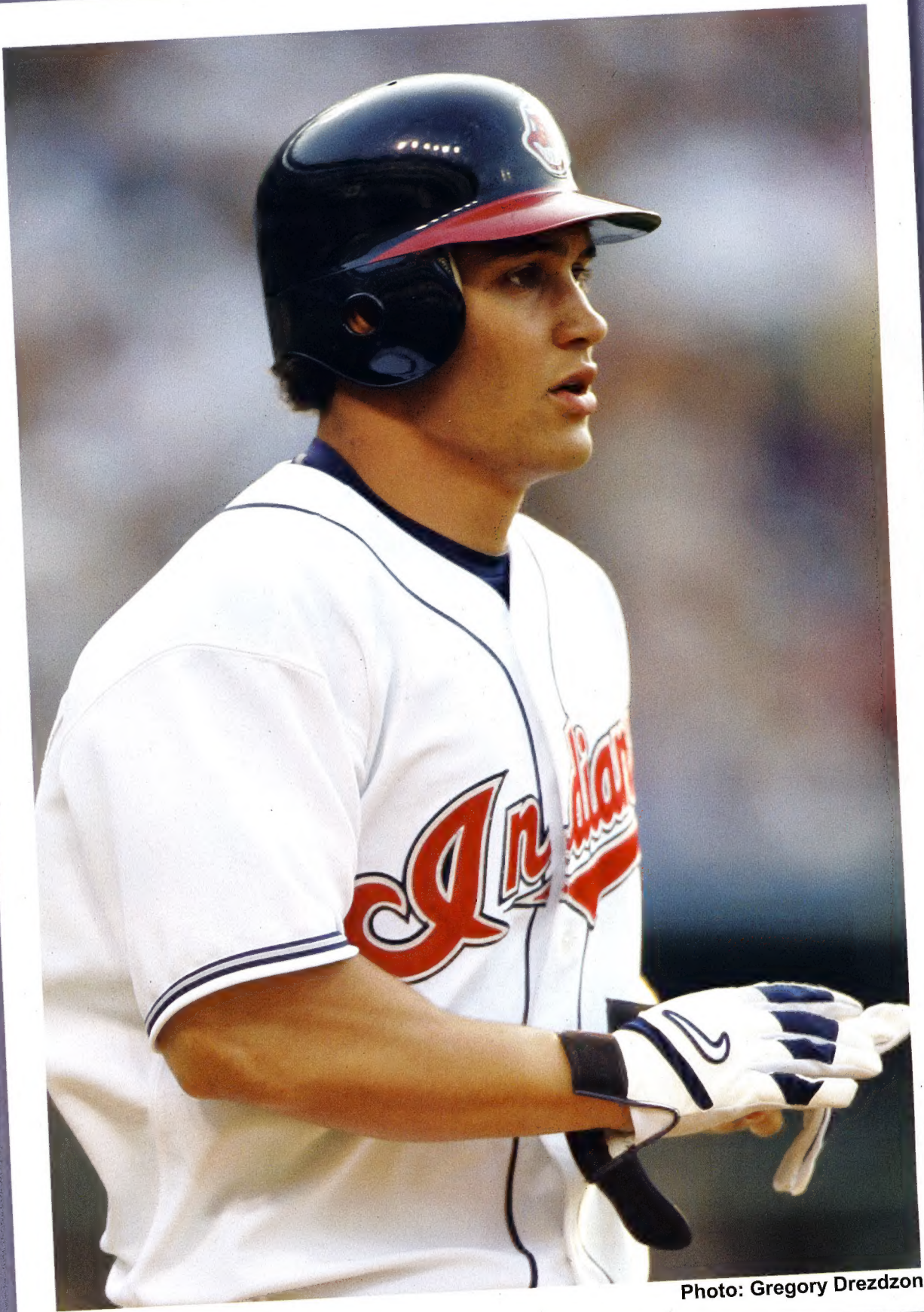


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

WHAT I'VE LEARNED IN THE **BIG** LEAGUES

In the world of Major League Baseball, things come at you fast. The pitches are tougher, the reporters' questions more zealous, the veterans' pranks more embarrassing (think women's clothing). But Grady Sizemore's a quick study — earning him success on the field and adoration off it.

By Jason Lloyd

THE ONLY THING MORE INCREDIBLE THAN Grady Sizemore's production over the first half of the season is the realization that he wasn't even supposed to be here.

When Juan Gonzalez was signed to a low-risk contract shortly before the start of spring training, it all but stamped Sizemore's bus ticket back to Buffalo.

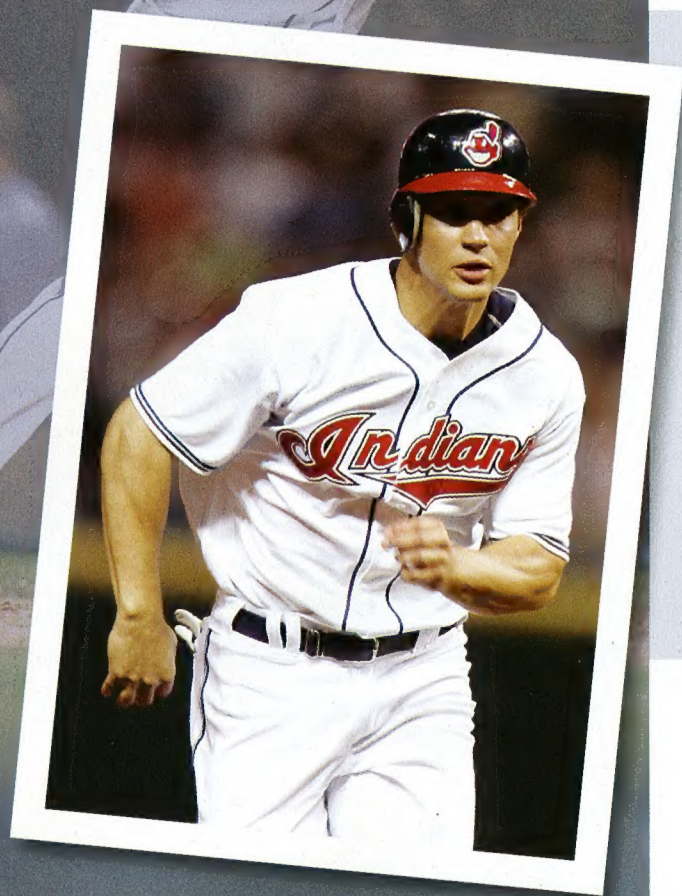
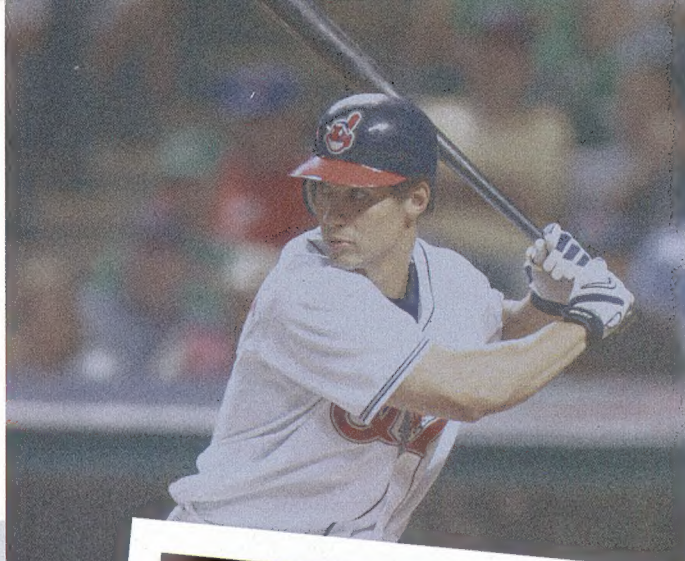
At least that was the plan.

"It's definitely been surprising," Sizemore says. "The last week of spring training, I didn't think I'd be here. I'm just so happy to have a chance to play every day up here."

Gonzalez turned out to not be a factor this year, while Sizemore has proved to be a cornerstone piece to the Indians' rebuilding project.

Watch him chase down balls in center field or turn doubles up the gap into triples and it's easy to forget Sizemore turned just 23 this August and is in his first full season in the Majors. But his most difficult adjustment hasn't been to hitting a curve or laying off a sinker — it's how he has to answer questions about himself every day in the glaring lights of the media.

Maybe it's modesty or maybe it's a fear of sounding boastful. Either way, Sizemore squirms more in front of cameras than he does at the plate.



All photos: Gregory Drezdson



"I don't really like talking about myself," he says. "I've always given generic answers. But now I have to think about what to say because [the media] keeps asking the same question different ways, so I have to start coming up with different answers to weasel my way out of them. I never was comfortable talking about myself, so I always try and bring it back to the team."

That's just one reason he's quickly become so popular with his teammates. What's more, Sizemore brings the physical mentality that earned him a football scholarship to University of Washington and combines it with the type of hustle that earns points with any manager.

Sizemore runs out a routine pop fly like he's sprinting toward the end zone; he makes a routine ground ball to second a close call at first. It looks as though it might already be earning him the benefit of the doubt on close plays with umpires. If nothing else, it's already earned him the respect of his boss.

"He's really been the most consistent player we've had all year," Tribe Manager Eric Wedge says.

Sizemore hit .246 in 43 games with the Indians last year. It may not sound like much, but it provided the foundation for this season. "It was nice to get my feet wet and give me an idea of what to expect," he says. "It takes a little bit of time to adjust up here, but the more games you get in early on, the better off you're going to be."

"I just focus on what I have to do right now. You go out there worrying about your average and it's just going to mess you up. Things can get complicated enough I just try and simplify the game."

The Indians used the same philosophy with Victor Martinez in 2003, when Martinez played in 49 games his rookie year. He then hit .283, with 23 home runs and 108 RBI in his first full season last year.

Sizemore is now following a similar path, proving that the Indians might just be on to something in how to develop young talent. Sizemore is not eligible for the Rookie of the Year award, since his 138 at-bats last year exceed Major League Baseball's limit of 130.

But more importantly, the Indians never got going offensively until he was permanently inserted atop the lineup. Now on a team with relatively young position players up and down the roster, Sizemore fits right in.

"We've got a pretty good group of guys in here and we're all pretty young," first baseman Ben Broussard says. "We take it pretty easy on the rookies, except for the outfits."

The outfits, of course, are the women's clothes all rookies are forced to dress in one night on the last road trip of the year. Their regular clothes are stolen and replaced with women's outfits, which must be worn from the Ballpark, on the flight and eventually to the hotel.

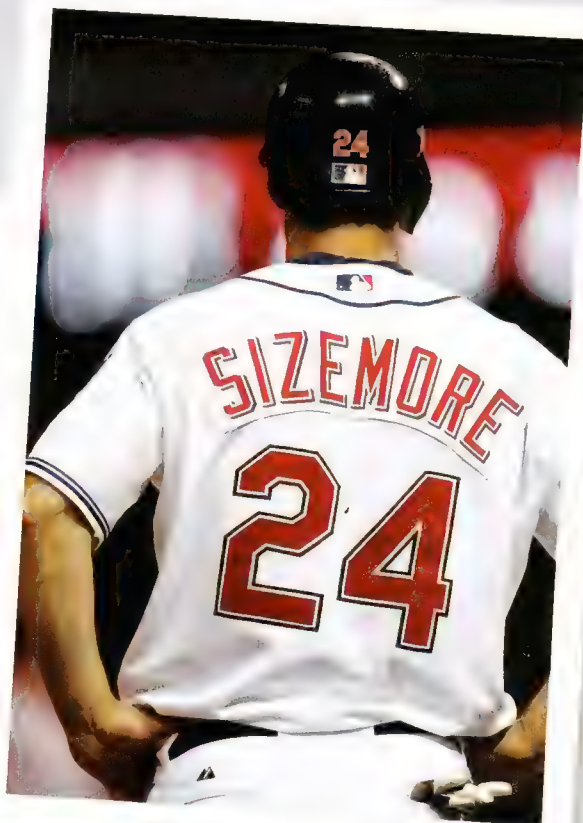
Sizemore rejoined the team last year in time for the ritual, but that doesn't necessarily excuse him from it this year.

"There've been times when a guy had to do it more than once," Broussard says. "It's up to the older guys on the team whether or not they'll make him do it again."

If nothing else, Sizemore's numbers should provide proper immunity — he was the only everyday player with an average hovering around .300 through the first three months of the season. But don't expect him to know that. Most days he doesn't even know his statistics, although he admits to occasionally peeking.

"I don't like to focus on my production. I think that's a distraction from the way I go about my day," he says. "I just focus on what I have to do right now. You go out there worrying about your average and it's just going to mess you up. Things can get complicated enough I just try and simplify the game."

For now, Sizemore remains young, successful, and single in a city that is quickly developing a love affair with him. He admits he's a little more recognizable this year, especially as the summer progresses and more fans begin to take notice. While he doesn't go out a lot, when he does, usually there are at least a few female fans enamored of the team's rising star. "It's kind of fun. I don't mind the ladies being interested," Sizemore laughs. "I don't like a lot of attention, but that type of attention I don't mind." ■



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tools OF THE TRADE

Baseball is a game of bats and balls. There's also a ton of gloves, shoes, jerseys and some pretty cool sunglasses. It's someone's job to take care of these loads and piles of stuff. We get the inside scoop.

By Jim Ingraham



BASEBALL IS A GAME THAT REQUIRES A LOT of stuff. So much stuff that Major League teams must employ one individual whose sole job it is to keep track of all the stuff.

With the Cleveland Indians, that person is Tony Amato, the team's clubhouse and equipment manager.

If an Indians player wears it, throws it, swings it, catches it, breaks it, loses it, gives it away, and/or just simply wears it out, chances are Amato can clean it, repair it, or order a new one.

Amato is the go-to guy for Indians players when they need more stuff.

And baseball is a game that requires a lot of stuff.

For example ...

Amato's equipment budget calls for about \$170,000 per year just for baseballs.

"We use about 1,800-dozen balls during a full season," he says.

For those scoring at home, that translates to 21,600 baseballs.

And that doesn't count the 13,200 baseballs Amato orders for Spring Training.

Bats?

Oh, yeah, Amato knows bats. In fact, on any given day, in the Indians' storage room adjacent to the home clubhouse at Jacobs Field, there are between 1,000 and 1,500 bats.

And that doesn't count the bats Amato already has on order to replace the ones recently broken.

"During a full season," he says, "an average player will go through five- to six-dozen bats."

That doesn't count Tribe second baseman Ronnie Belliard, who is the king of the broken bat.

"He probably broke 70 to 80 bats last year by himself," says Amato. "Ronnie goes through eight- or nine-dozen bats per year."

Baseball bats get broken. Baseball gloves get broken in.

Both pieces of equipment, however, follow the same career paths, although the bats have a much shorter shelf life than the gloves. According to Amato, players typically go through two to four baseball gloves per season.

On a typical Indians road trip, Amato will pack two baseball gloves and 12 bats for each player.

In the case of both bats and gloves, a player has a "gamer," which is the one, obviously, he uses only in games. The player also has a second glove, a newer glove, he uses only during pre-game drills, to break the glove in, which will eventually replace his gamer.

It can take up to a year to break in a new baseball glove to the liking of its owner — and even then that glove may not be elevated to "gamer" status.

"Some guys will use the same glove year after year," says Amato.

Likewise, a player's game bat is never used during batting practice. He uses his batting practice bat. Game bats are typically used until they break. Sometimes, though, a player mired in a slump will change bats frequently.

Indians third baseman Aaron Boone is notorious for frequently changing bats during a bad stretch. Boone is also very meticulous about the weight of his bats.

"He will only use bats that weigh between 31.2 ounces and 31.5 ounces," says Amato.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Batting gloves are the most perishable of all baseball stuff.

"Sometimes the players can be real fussy about them," he says. "They'll get an order of 12 bats in, look at them, but only use six of them. They'll give away the other six, because they don't feel right, even though they are all the same length and weight requested by the player."

Major League players have virtually every piece of equipment provided for them, either by the ball club or by equipment companies, which most players have contracts with.

Most players have shoe, bat, and glove contracts, meaning the individual companies will provide the players with as many of those items during a season as the player needs.

On average, a player will go through three to four pairs of baseball shoes each season. Each player has eight different uniforms: the Indians have four different styles, and each player has two uniforms for each style. Each player also will, on average, go through five baseball caps per season.

And not all of those caps are discarded because they are worn out.

"I had a player once who complained that the Chief Wahoo on his cap was not straight," says Amato. "He went through a whole box of a dozen caps, looking for one that he thought the Chief Wahoo was straight. But they all looked straight to me."

Amato says pitchers go through more caps than position players, because pitchers tend to sweat more during games.

"C.C. (Sabathia) uses a lot of caps," says Amato. "On really hot days he'll ask me to have an extra cap for him that he can change to during the game."

Players can be very superstitious about their uniform pants.

"Some of them will keep wearing the same pants, even if they tear a hole in them, because they feel comfortable," says Amato. "We'll keep patching over holes and patching over holes. Sometimes we're actually happy when the player blows out the pants completely, because then he has to start using a new pair, because we can't patch them anymore."

There are actually guidelines for the wearing of uniforms that players must adhere to, or else Amato will get a "violation" letter of warning from Major League Baseball.

"They have a lot of rules," he says. "For example, you're only allowed two logos on your batting gloves. The number on wrist bands must be a certain size, and they don't like pants that are excessively baggy or worn too low."

Some players wear their uniform pant legs so far down over their

shoe tops that they will cut a hole in the pants to tie their shoelaces through.

"That isn't allowed," says Amato. "We'll get violation letters for that, too."

The Indians have two home uniforms, white tops and white vest tops, plus two away uniforms: gray tops and blue tops.

For a time, the starting pitcher decided which uniforms were to be worn that day, but now that decision is made by the Indians' marketing department.

Batting gloves are also considered tools of the trade. Virtually every Indians player uses batting gloves, except for Coco Crisp.

"Coco just likes the way the bat feels in his hands," says Amato.

Batting gloves are the most perishable of all baseball stuff.

"Most players will use a new pair every other day," says Amato.

Then there are the more exotic pieces of equipment, such as the sunglasses, which have evolved from the old-fashioned flip-down glasses to a newer model, which is worn either over the eyes, or on top of the bill of the cap

for easy access should they be needed on short notice.

There is even one model of sunglasses that has a mechanism in them that allows a player to download his favorite music into a computer chip contained within the glasses, which also include tiny earpieces, allowing the player to listen to the music while wearing the glasses during batting practice.

Indeed, the evolution of baseball equipment, both necessary and those considered luxuries, is seemingly unending.

"The weirdest request I ever got," says Amato, "was from our bullpen catcher, who is left-handed. He wanted a bigger catcher's mitt. So we tried to order a knuckleball catcher's glove (which is oversized). But if you think it's hard to find a knuckleball catcher's glove, it's really hard to find a left-handed knuckleball catcher's glove."

Indeed, an equipment manager's job is never done. Not even when the game is over.

While fans and players are driving home from Jacobs Field, Amato and his staff are loading all the laundry used by the players during that game into the five giant washing machines down the hall from the clubhouse.

The laundry is washed and dried, and then, in the wee hours of the morning, one of Amato's assistants hangs them all up in each player's locker for use in the next day's game.

Even uniforms with impossible stains in them are no match for Amato's staff.

Tommy Foster, Amato's assistant, has concocted a secret detergent designed specifically for the toughest stains.

"He won't tell me what's in it," says Amato. "But he mixed a bunch of chemicals together and came up with this stuff that really works well."

When uniforms, or any other type of equipment are too worn for use by the Indians, they are shipped to one of the Indians' Minor League teams or put aside for use by Cleveland Indians Charities.

By that time, of course, Amato has already ordered more of whatever it is that has worn out.

"My biggest challenge," he says, "is to never get caught short."

And that's not easy.

Because baseball is a game that requires a lot of stuff. ■



Photo: Gregory Drezdon

"During a full season...an average player will go through five- to six-dozen bats."

— Tony Amato

It's THE BEER GUY

For 30 years this vendor has been a popular face around the Ballpark.

Looking at Les Flake, a beer vendor at Jacobs Field, fans may think he is just an ordinary guy. As soon as he opens his mouth and out comes, "IT'S THE BEER GUY!" it's hard not to realize who he is.

"I just started doing my chant," he says of his nickname, "The Beer Guy." "It kind of stuck."

Fans would agree. Many of them recognize him at the airport or on the street. "Everywhere I go, people say, 'Look, there's the beer guy.' "

He also has a following of impersonators, mostly

ones too young to drink. "People tell me, 'My son does you at home,' " he says with a laugh.

Flake, a 47-year-old Cleveland native, has been perfecting his skill for 30 years working not only at Jacobs Field, but also at Gund Arena and Cleveland Browns Stadium. He started selling peanuts at Cleveland Municipal Stadium when he was in high school.

Though he enjoys all sports, working at Jacobs Field is the one he says he most looks forward to. "Baseball's my favorite,"

he says. "It's a great game; there's nothing better than baseball in summer."

For a man whose living is to serve people beer, Flake only enjoys a cold one once a month. And along with his fellow vendors, Flake is serious about his customers, not how many beers he sells. "I don't serve intoxicated people, ever," he says. "I'll be nice and say, 'Sorry sir, I can't serve you anymore.' "

Fans can find Flake on the upper level with his cooler of beer (it weighs about 15 pounds).

"I like being upstairs,"



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Flake says. "It's my area."

He's positive that one day soon the Indians, along with his favorite player, Coco Crisp, will be top contenders. "This team is coming back," he says with a smile.

— Kim Schneider





2005 Starting Line-up

Paul Dolan
Cleveland Indians
Honorary Chairperson

Patricia Ruffin
Parma Community General Hospital
Chairperson

Phillip Prather
Philips Medical Systems
Vice Chairperson

Jerry Ribelli
Fifth Third Bank
Past Chairperson

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Photo: Gregory Drezdron



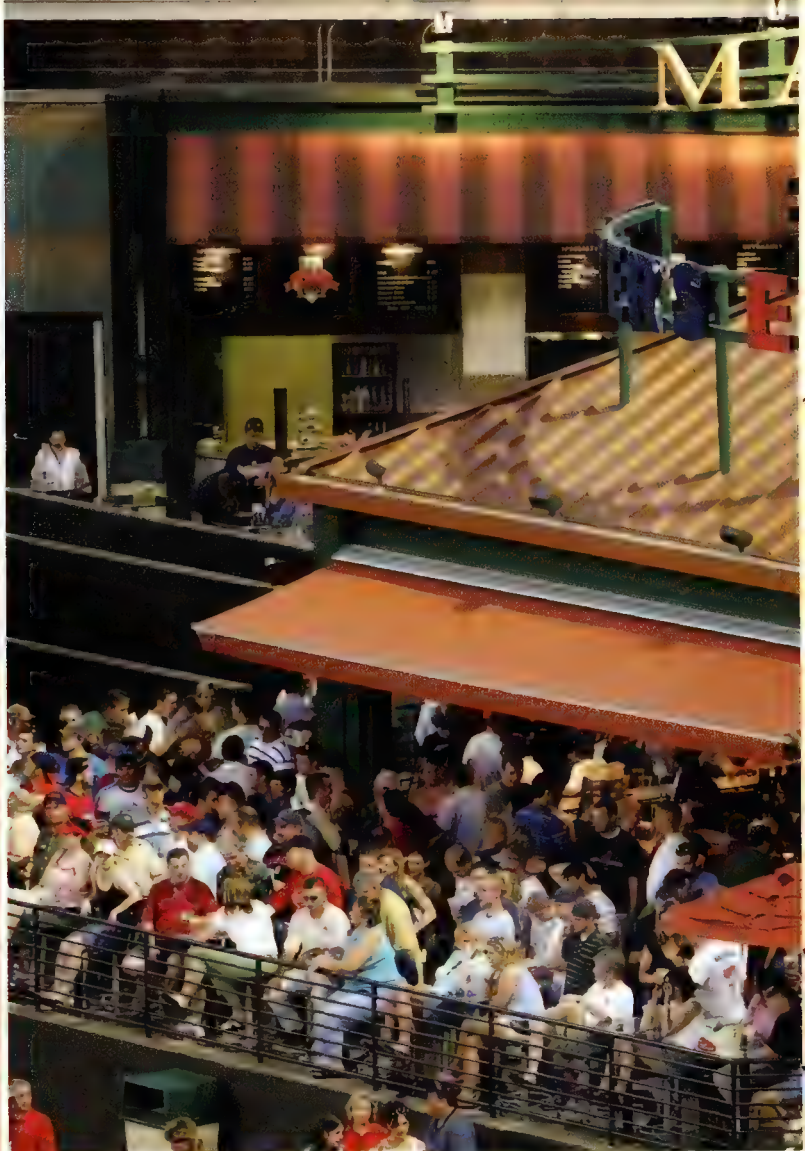
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Photo: Gregory Drezdron

BATTER'S UP



With top-of-the-line beverage options, friendly patrons, and one heck of a view of the game, the Batter's Eye Bar is the place to be at Jacobs Field. *By Amber Matheson*



ON A WARM EVENING IN LATE MAY, I finally found out what all the fuss was about. After months of hearing the rave reviews, pining for a cool drink on a warm patio, I was there: The Batter's Eye Bar, 7:05, Wednesday, May 25. Indians vs. Twins. Now, we all know this turned out to be a humdinger of a game; Ben Broussard hit a homer to tie it up in the bottom of the ninth and Travis Hafner scooted Ronnie Belliard to home on a two-out single in the tenth for the win. It would've been great to watch this nail-biter in a seat right alongside the field. But it turned out to be even better at the bar.



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

Cool-Aid

So I bellied up to the sleek bar, inlaid with colorful tiles and manned by three chilled-out bartenders. On my side, two flat-screen TVs displayed the game. The patio area had a good crowd of people mingling with beers in hand, but I was still able to get a seat at the bar. The insiders know that the best seats in this house are the spots against the railing — behind and just to the right of center field, with a clear view of the game. This is where the action happens.

But for now, I was focusing on my beverage options. The bartenders make the drinks here, of course, but they really make the drinks — almost every specialty drink on the menu was concocted by one of the employees. Which means that they highly recommend everything.

The first thing I did was peruse the drink menu. The names may as well be in Latin — you need a trusty bartender to explain drinks such as the Shannon on Homeplate, Big Daddy, Fly Ball, and Batter's Eye. So enlist their help. You'll be thanking them later.

I went for the patriotic Triple Play and got three frozen drinks in one: a strawberry daiquiri base, a pina colada in the middle, and a blue Hawaiian on top. Besides looking really cool and making you the hit of the party, it's the

perfect thirst-quencher for a hot summer day.

The lone male bartender of the evening, Michael, cruised by and I asked him what his favorite drink was. The nine-year veteran of Sportservice for the Indians pointed out the drink he designed, the signature Batter's Eye Martini. He mixes up a little Blackhouse, a little watermelon Pucker, adds a splash of 7UP and grenadine, and voila! You've got yourself a pro's creation.

Double Play

The Batter's Eye Bar is more than just a great place to get a drink. Ensconced between the field and the Market Pavilion, patrons get the best of both worlds. Everything you need is at hand. Hungry? The Market Pavilion is literally steps away and offers everything from gyros to burritos (with French fries and brats mixed in). Once your food is in hand, you can sit anywhere you like; take your grub over to a bistro table, shoehorn yourself into a spot against the ledge facing the field, or just pit stop at the bar and eat in comfort while you watch the game on TV. Who could say no to a little alfresco dining in the shadow of the Jake, especially when you don't have to balance your beer and hot dog in your lap?

Extral Extral

There are two things that ultimately push the Batter's Eye Bar over the top (and make it my favorite place in the Ballpark): the cushy extras and the atmosphere.

Along with the fancy frozen drinks and martinis, the bar serves bebies aplenty for the beer drinkers amongst us.

"The best thing about this bar is the Blue Moon," said Indians fan Dave Hager as he ordered the beer for himself and a friend. "Everywhere else, it's just Budweiser, stuff like that." The beers arrived complete with an orange wedge. For you Budweiser lovers, have no fear — the bar serves Bud, Bud Light, Miller Lite, Labatt and Coors Light. They also have a wine list that includes everything from cabernet to pinot noir.

For chilly nights, the bar contains built-in heat lamps. It's well lit and cozy, the kind of place you can settle in for the long haul. Which is exactly what I did as the game went into extra innings.

The atmosphere is kind of like any other bar, where strangers are getting to know one another, rounds are being ordered, and everyone's getting a little friendlier as the night goes on.

The railing along the edge of the bar is typically pretty crowded, since it is the spot with the best view. The atmosphere is kind of like any other bar, where strangers are getting to know one another, rounds are being ordered and everyone's getting a little friendlier as the night goes on. Except that here the main attraction isn't pool, darts, or whatever's on TV, it's the live game going on right in front of you. Bars don't get much cooler than this.

As the end approached, it happened. I saw a chair against the railing open up and I went for it. Suddenly, there I was: drink in hand, basking in the lights of the Jake, with a primo view of the tie game and the winning tenth inning. The final innings were tense, but the crowd at the Batter's Eye Bar made the most of the experience. We were part of a small but powerful cheering section; it seemed as if no one could imagine being anywhere else at that moment. ■



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP
Cincinnati Reds

PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU
My Parents

ROAD CITY
Boston



AGE: 27

BORN: MARCH 30, 1978

ITHACA, NY

POSITION: CATCHER

B-T: S-R **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 215

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP

Denver Broncos

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**

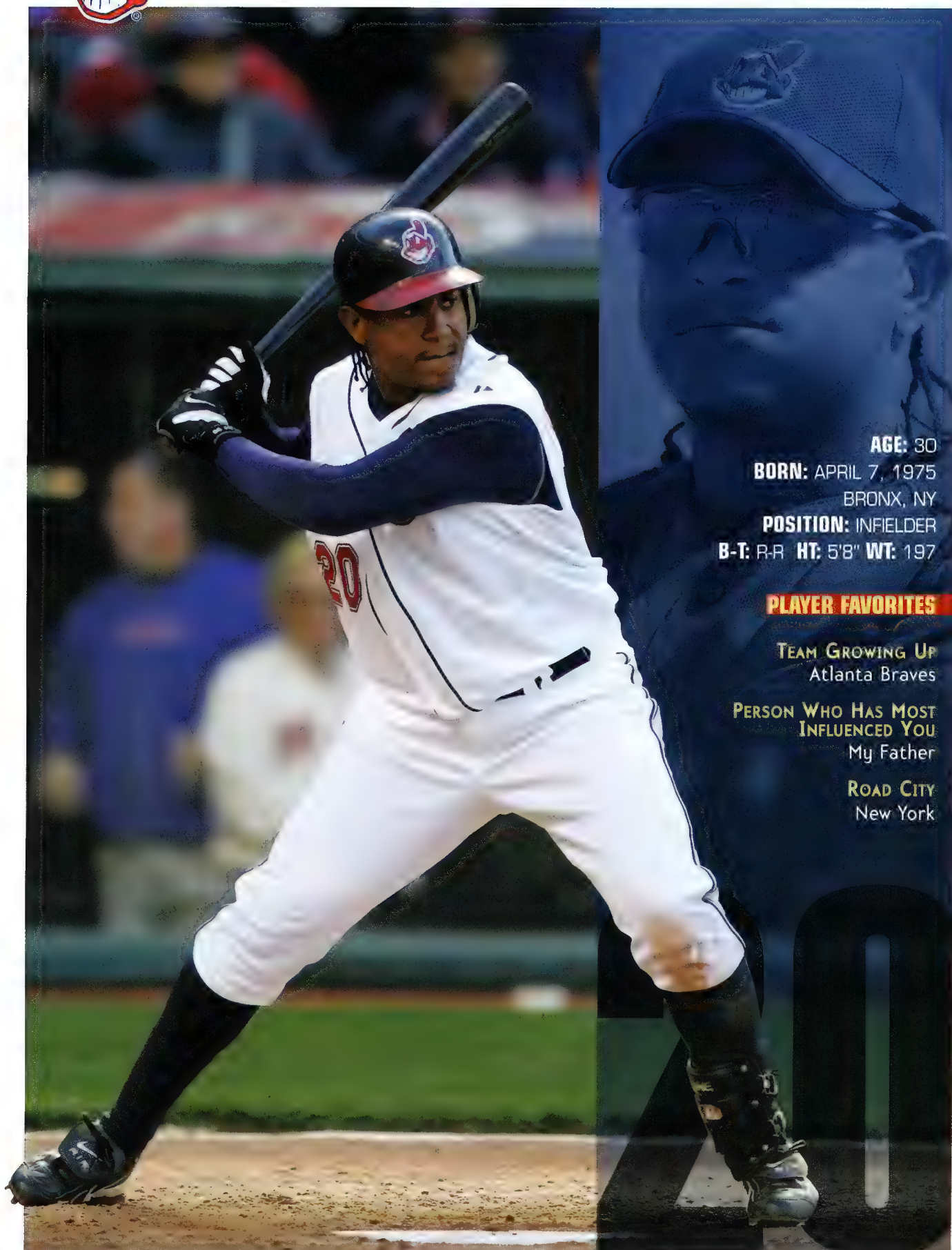
My Father

ROAD CITY

Chicago



RONNIE BELLIARD



AGE: 30

BORN: APRIL 7, 1975

BRONX, NY

POSITION: INFIELDER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 5'8" **WT:** 197

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP

Atlanta Braves

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**

My Father

ROAD CITY

New York



AGE: 30

BORN: APRIL 29, 1975

CUMANÁ, VENEZUELA

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 200

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP

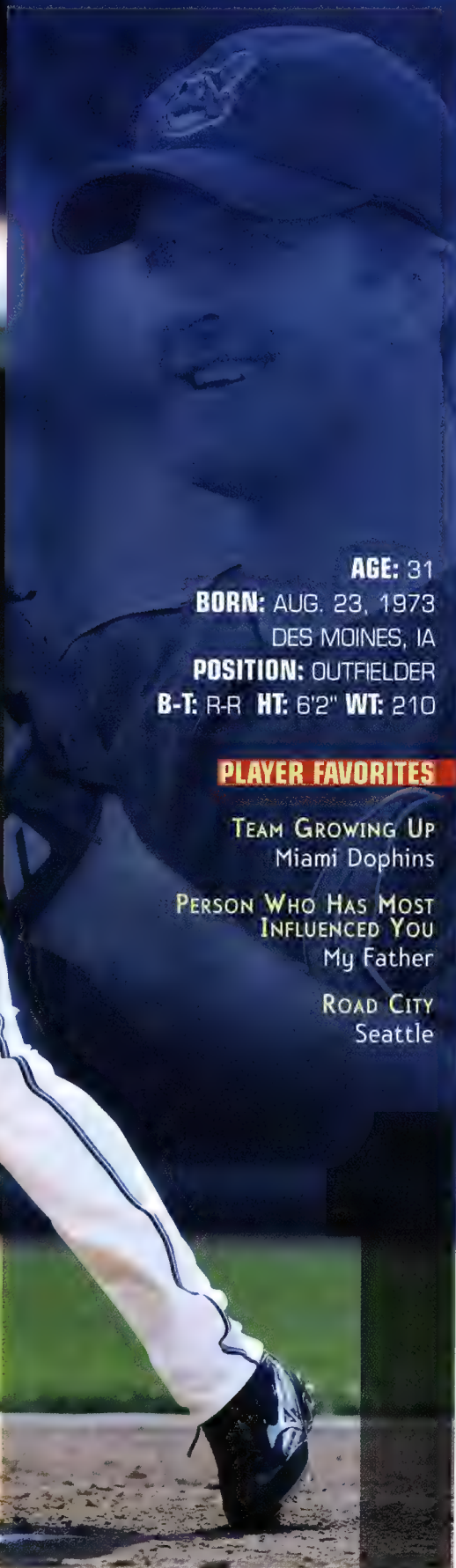
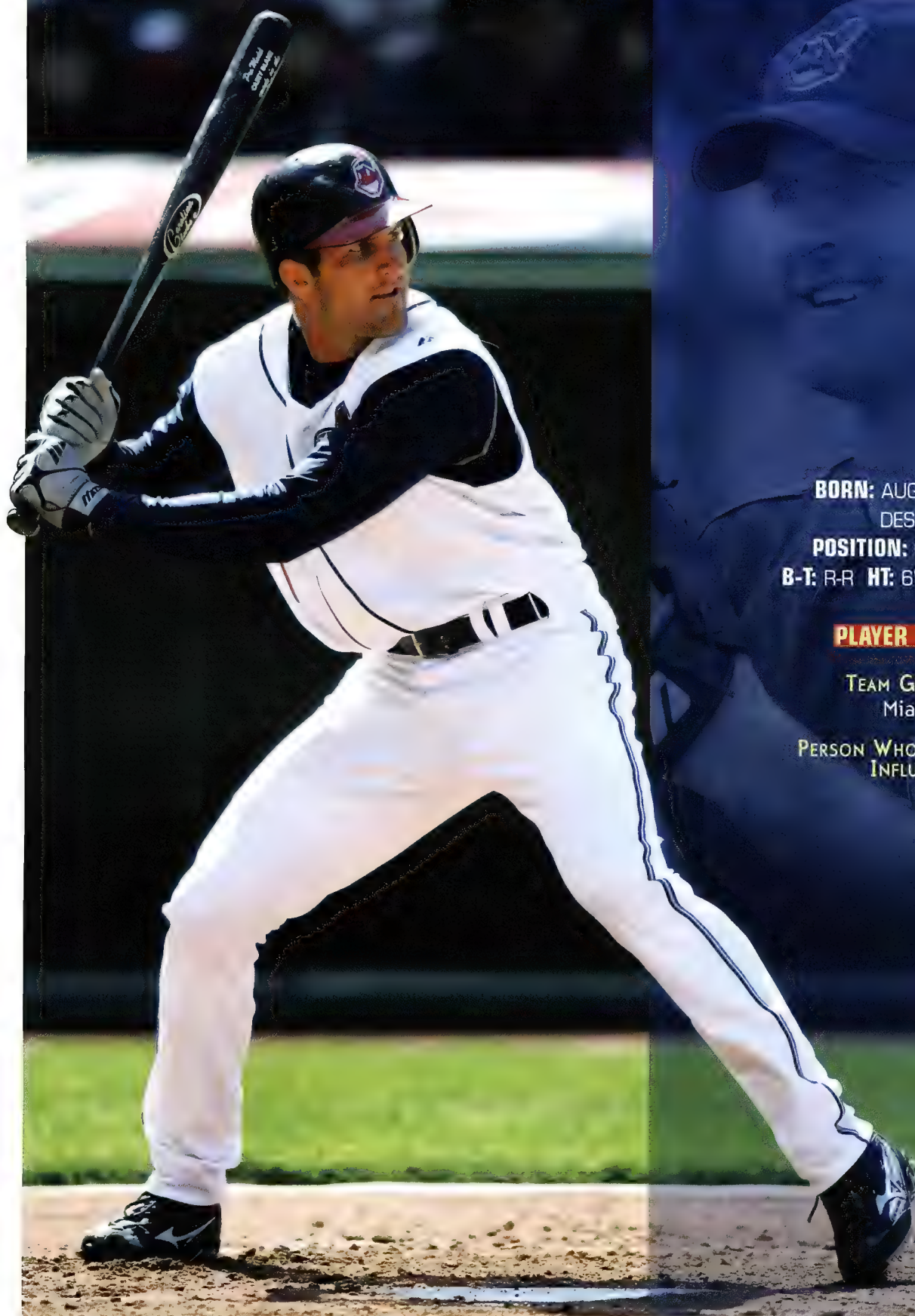
Atlanta Braves

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**

My Children, Wife,
and Mother

ROAD CITY

Chicago



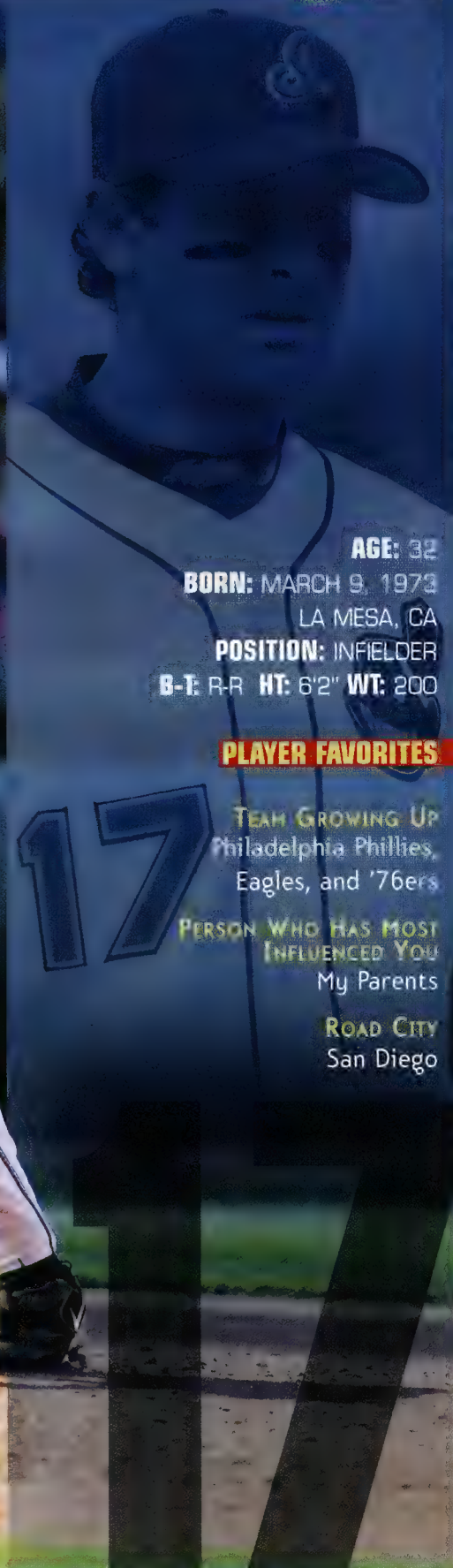
AGE: 31
BORN: AUG. 23, 1973
DES MOINES, IA
POSITION: OUTFIELDER
B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 210

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP
Miami Dolphins

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**
My Father

ROAD CITY
Seattle



AGE: 32

BORN: MARCH 9, 1973

LA MESA, CA

POSITION: INFILDER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 200

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP
Philadelphia Phillies,
Eagles, and '76ers

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**
My Parents

ROAD CITY
San Diego

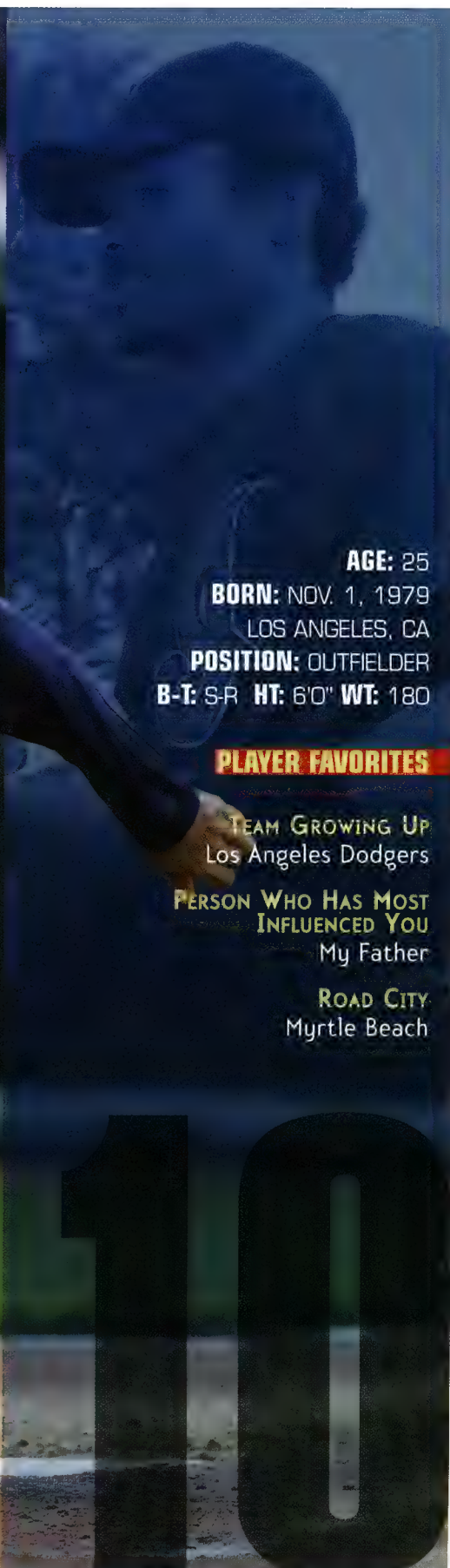


AGE: 23

BORN: NOVEMBER 16, 1981
TOJA BAJA, PR

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R HT: 6'4" WT: 225



AGE: 25

BORN: NOV. 1, 1979

LOS ANGELES, CA

POSITION: OUTFIELDER

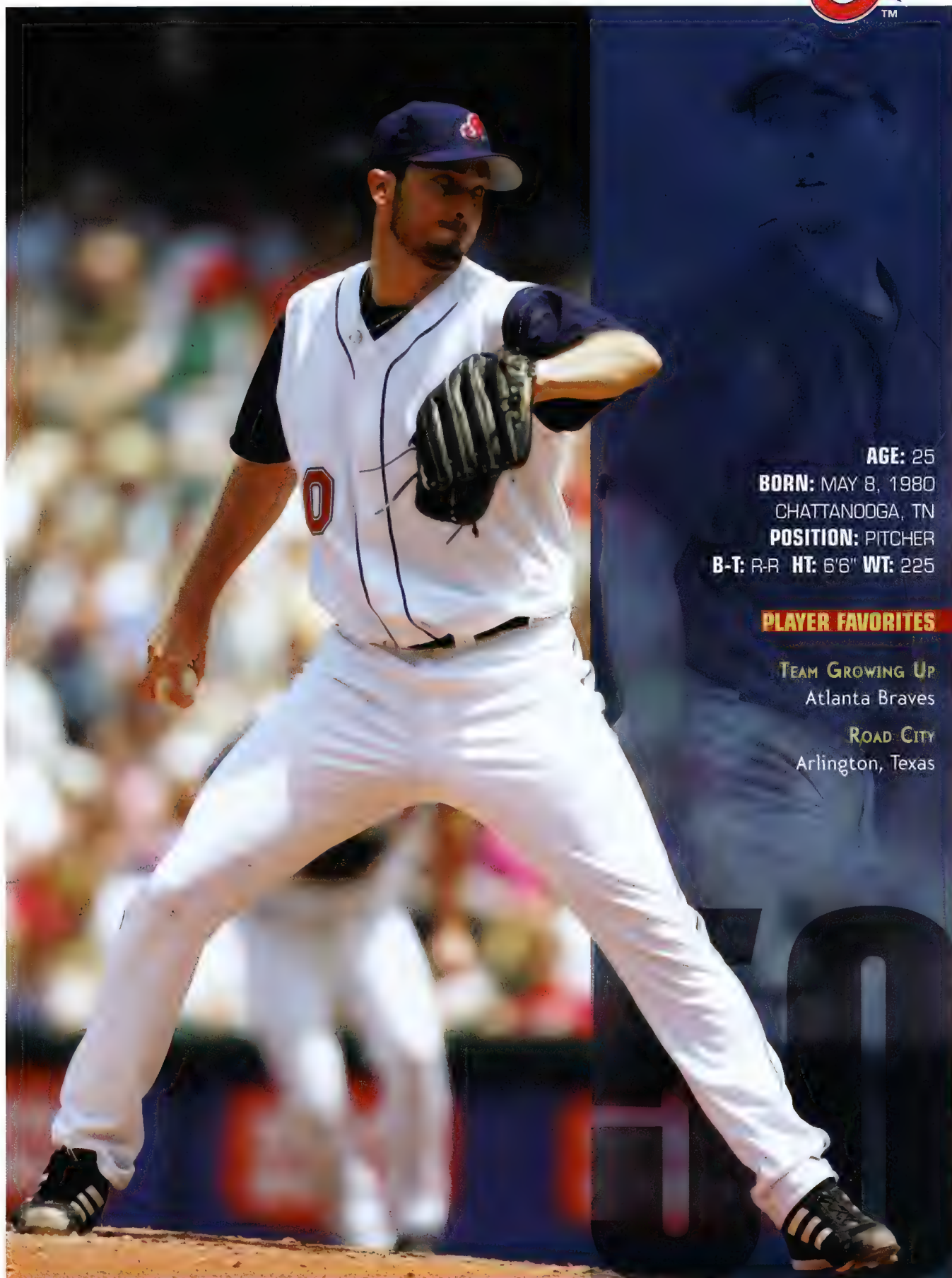
B-T: S-R **HT:** 6'0" **WT:** 180

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP
Los Angeles Dodgers

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**
My Father

ROAD CITY
Myrtle Beach



AGE: 25

BORN: MAY 8, 1980

CHATTANOOGA, TN

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'6" **WT:** 225

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP

Atlanta Braves

ROAD CITY

Arlington, Texas



TOUR DE FORCE

Have you ever wondered what happens behind the scenes at The Jake?

Cleveland Indians Charities has just the thing to satisfy your curiosity while supporting a good cause.

Jacobs Field Tours offer fans an intimate look at the \$175 million home of the Tribe, including the press box, bullpen, dugout, Club Lounge, batting cages, party suite, and Kidsland. Select tours will also see the visitors' clubhouse.

Proceeds benefit Cleveland Indians Charities and, since the park opened in 1994, the tours have generated more than



Photo: Gregory Drezdron

\$575,000. Public tours are available Monday through Friday and Saturdays when the Indians are on the road. Tickets are \$6.50 for adults, \$4.50 for children under 14, and senior citizens over 60, and free for children under 2.

Group tours, available for up to 40 people, are \$180 and are available Monday through Saturday at 1 p.m. School tours are also available.

For tickets and more information, visit your local Cleveland Indians Team Shop, Indians.com or call 216.420.4385.

It Takes A Team Effort

Through its Community Outreach efforts, the Cleveland Indians family is making a difference in the lives of young people in Northeast Ohio.



EVERY YEAR, MEMBERS OF THE Cleveland Indians visit local area schools during lunchtime to promote good eating and exercising habits in a program known as the Cleveland Clinic Major League Program. While the school visit lasts only through the lunch hour, its impact on the children can last a lifetime.

In January, the Indians visited Brook Park Elementary. The auditorium was decorated in red, white, and blue and every child and teacher sported their favorite Indians gear to support the day's "Think spring, think Indians" theme. Tribe visitors included radio announcer Matt Underwood, first base coach Jeff Datz, and players Victor Martinez, Cliff Lee, and Rafael Betancourt.

Arriving 30 minutes ahead of schedule, the players took the baseball

memorabilia purchased by Brook Park's PTA and autographed everything as a gift to the students.

But an even bigger surprise awaited one fifth-grade boy, who is confined to a wheelchair, says Principal Dave Vale.

"The fifth-grader came in with two baseballs and a note from his mom, saying he had slept with the two balls the night before and dreamt of the players signing them," he says. When Martinez heard the story, he asked to see him and signed his baseballs, one for the boy and one for his brother who is also in a wheelchair, in front of the whole school. "People were crying; it was so precious," Vale says. "If their purpose was to spread good will, it was certainly accomplished."

"It was so touching how the players were so accommodating to the kids. They could not have designed a better day."



Other programs through the Indians Community Outreach include:

FIRSTENERGY GRAND SLAM LITERACY PROGRAM

In conjunction with the Cuyahoga County Library System, players, their wives, and front office staff visit various libraries during the summer months to motivate students to read. Indians personnel come and read their favorite books to children in elementary school.

"They really get excited to see and hear the players," says Kim Merryman, public relations director for the library. "This program really provides the human interaction kids want, and they get a chance to learn while meeting their favorite Indians players."

KEYBANK HIGH ACHIEVERS PROGRAM

As a participant in the High Achievers Program, Principal Bob Trapp, of Olmsted Falls High School, has the opportunity to reward deserving students with two free tickets to Indians home games. The Cleveland Indians provide the school, along with many others throughout the area in grades 4 through 12, with approximately 70 tickets a season. Trapp distributes the tickets to the Students of the Month for their outstanding classroom work. "The students seem really excited when they win tickets and it's also a nice surprise," he says.

KeyBank and the Indians have provided nearly 200,000 tickets to deserving students since 1994. In addition, through the KeyBank Charitable Complimentary Ticket Program, almost 75,000 free tickets have been distributed to assist the underprivileged, seniors, and the disabled since Jacobs Field opened.



Brenda and Ben Broussard have a great time reading to kids and their families at the Brooklyn Library branch.

PLAIN DEALER TRIBE REPORTER FOR A DAY

For Dana Raponi, working as the Tribe Reporter for a Day was "definitely an eye-opening experience." Designed for high school students considering journalism careers, the program gives 25 essay-contest winners the opportunity to get behind the scenes of an Indians reporter's workday.

Participants choose to be a photographer, sports writer, or television journalist. Raponi and her group toured the Ballpark, attended a press conference with Manager Eric Wedge, and watched batting practice before the game. (The highlight was when Omar Vizquel came over to say "Hi.") "It was a once-in-lifetime experience," she says.

BOONE'S BUDDIES PRESENTED BY MEDICAL MUTUAL

Members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland and their families will receive tickets and food-and-beverage coupons, and sit along the third base line to cheer on Boone every Saturday during the 2005 season.

— Beth Stallings

THE BOOK BOYS

Indians players participate in the FIRSTENERGY GRAND SLAM LITERACY PROGRAM each year to motivate kids to read. But what books have these Tribe sluggers turning the page?



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

JODY GERUT:

*Flags of our Fathers:
Heroes of Iwo Jima,
James Bradley and
Ron Powers*

CASEY BLAKE:

*Tuesdays with Morrie,
Mitch Albom*

BEN BROUSSARD:

*Angels and Demons,
Dan Brown*

Join THE CLUB

CLUB SEAT TICKET holders are getting a chance to experience Tribe games in ways fans have until now only dreamed about. Imagine all-you-can-eat food in your seats or in a sports bar atmosphere while still having a perfect view of the game.

Yes, the laminated menus have disappeared from the Club Seats, but so has the need to bring your wallet. That's right, hot dogs, soda, popcorn, and other traditional Ballpark items, delivered by vendors, are now free in the Club Seats.



Photo: Gregory Drezdron

In addition, ticket holders can now enjoy complimentary food and non-alcoholic beverages in the Club Lounge, where almost 20 large, flat-screen TVs ensure you'll never miss a single moment of the action. And besides the regular Ballpark food, the Club Lounge offers a specialized carving station, pasta bar, daily international specials, and ice cream.

"You can go in there and never pull your wallet out," says Bill Lavelle, Indians Director of Luxury Seating. "That's a pretty cool deal." He added that this is a great comfort for companies that give Club Seat tickets to employees and clients. "Now employers can give



Photo: Gregory Drezdron

their workers and customers a \$75 ticket and not worry about them having to pay for anything," explains Lavelle.

"I think it's a terrific value," says John Betchal, who has owned Season Tickets in the Club Seats for 10 years. "You get the combination of great baseball, a comfortable seat, along with blue-ribbon food."

Also new this season are Chalk Talks, which provide Club Seat holders an exclusive, inside look at the Tribe. Four times throughout the season, press-conference style Chalk Talks will be held for Club Seat ticket holders on a first-come, first-served basis.

Additionally, Club Seat members can meet the players in a re-laxed setting at the Tribe Celeb-riety Cook-off. The free event occurs once a season with five or six Indians players and/or coaches cooking and serving their favorite recipes to Club Seat owners. "The players really enjoy doing it," says Lavelle.

Last year, participants included Eric Wedge, Victor Martinez, and Matt Miller.

"That's just pure fun," Betchal says. "It's a variety of players' favorites and it is interesting to match the player's personality to the food."

Sound good so far? Well it's about to get even better with the ticket-buying options offered this season. Fans have the option of purchasing tickets for 40 games at a one-season commitment or they can purchase 81 games (a full season), with either a one-year or a three-year commitment. "The longer the commitment you make, the lower the price of a ticket," Lavelle says. Tickets

for Club Seating can also be purchased on an individual game basis for groups of 10 or more people.

With new signage, furniture and flat-screen TVs constantly airing

the in-house feed in the lounge, "fans never lose a feel to the game," Lavelle assures. The seating runs on the 200 level, down the first base line and halfway into right field.

"It's a perfect view and a great way to experience the game," Lavelle says.

— Beth Stallings

"The longer the commitment you make, the lower the price of the ticket," says Bill Lavelle, Indians Director of Luxury Seating.

A SUITE DEAL

For fans who want an exclusive experience without losing a feel for the game, Suites are a smart choice. The game can be viewed from inside the climate-controlled Suite — with its two TVs, refrigerator and wet bar — or out on the private balcony.

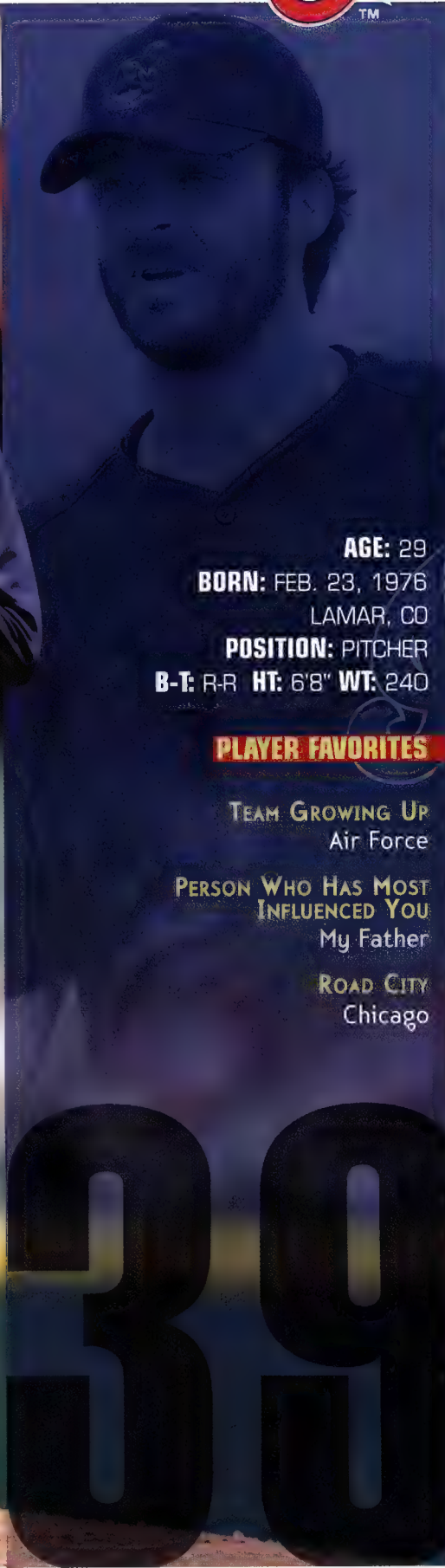
Twelve tickets and three parking passes are included with the purchase of the Suite. In addition, the Suites offer a private rest room, catering by Well Bread, which includes a dessert cart and hot-roller grills for hot dogs, a concierge, and a personal Suite attendant.

Suite holders receive discounts at the Team Shop and promotional giveaways during each game. They also have an opportunity to taste-test new Ballpark foods, which not only gives them a chance to have a part in Ballpark decisions, but also lets holders meet other Suite holders and allows a great networking opportunity.

And as a thank you, the Tribe hosts Suite Holder Workout Days in which Suite holders are treated like Indians players for the day, dressing in the locker rooms, having their names announced as they run out onto the field, and then hitting off Indians alums. "It's a day to be a Major Leaguer," says Lavelle.

Suites can be reserved in full- or partial-season plans, including 81 games (full season), 40 games (half season), 20 games, and the newly introduced nine game outfield Suite. "This new option was created to give almost everyone an opportunity to explore the Suites as an option," explains Lavelle. Even small businesses can take advantage of the nine-game plan to offer clients a unique experience. "It's an upscale service with endless rewards," Lavelle promises. — Beth Stallings





AGE: 29

BORN: FEB. 23, 1976
LAMAR, CO

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'8" **WT:** 240

PLAYER FAVORITES

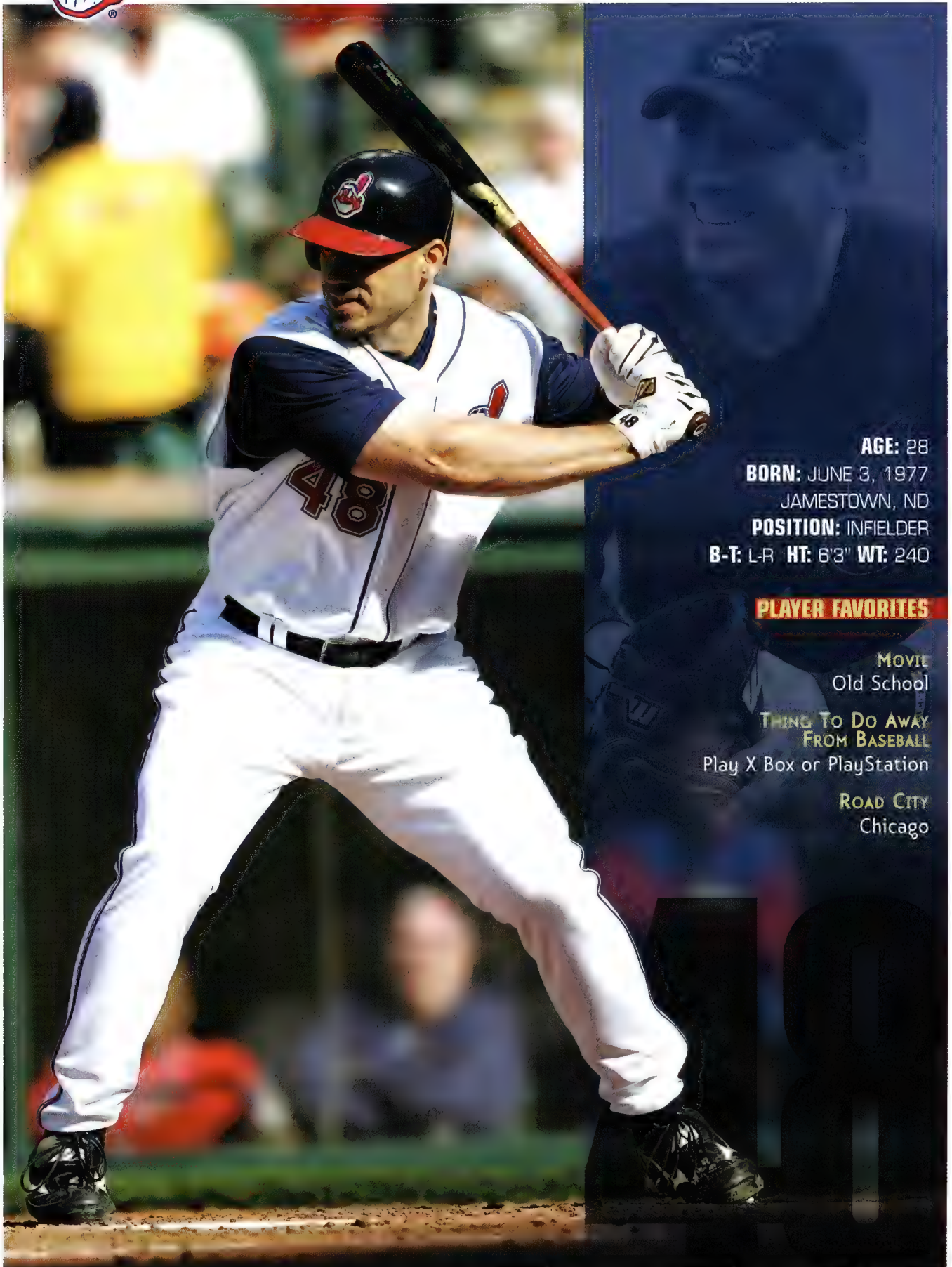
TEAM GROWING UP
Air Force

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**
My Father

ROAD CITY
Chicago

39

All photos: Gregory Drezdson



AGE: 28

BORN: JUNE 3, 1977

JAMESTOWN, ND

POSITION: INFIELDER

B-T: L-R **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 240

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

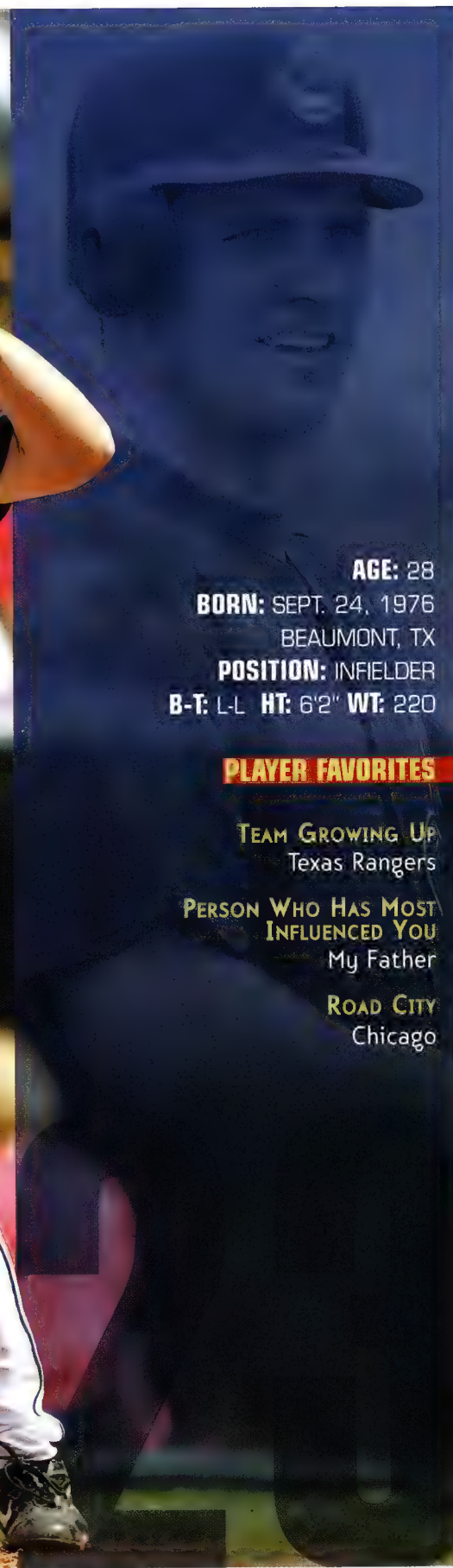
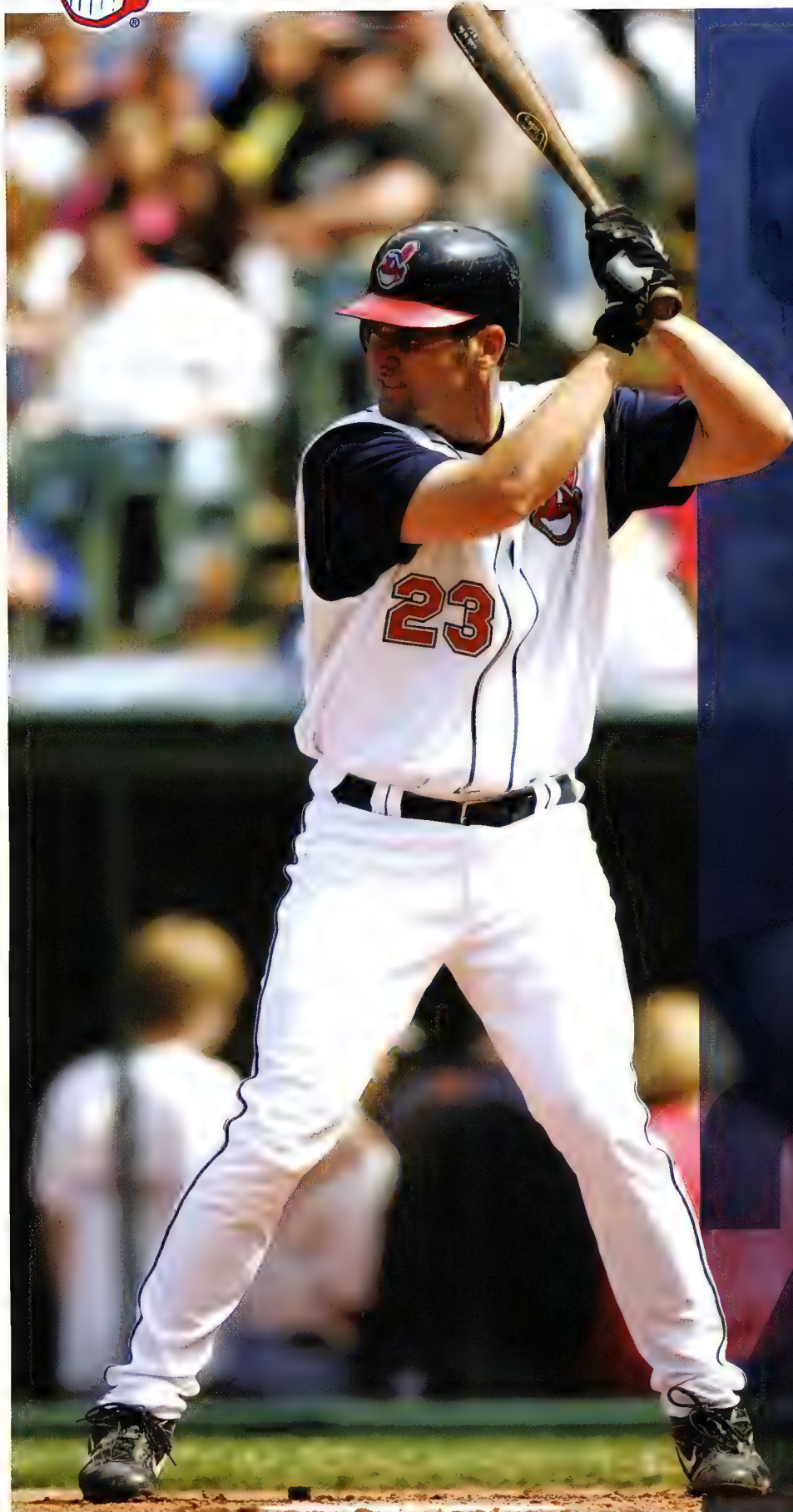
Old School

**THING TO DO AWAY
FROM BASEBALL**

Play X Box or PlayStation

ROAD CITY

Chicago



AGE: 28

BORN: SEPT. 24, 1976

BEAUMONT, TX

POSITION: INFILDER

B-T: L-L **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 220

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP

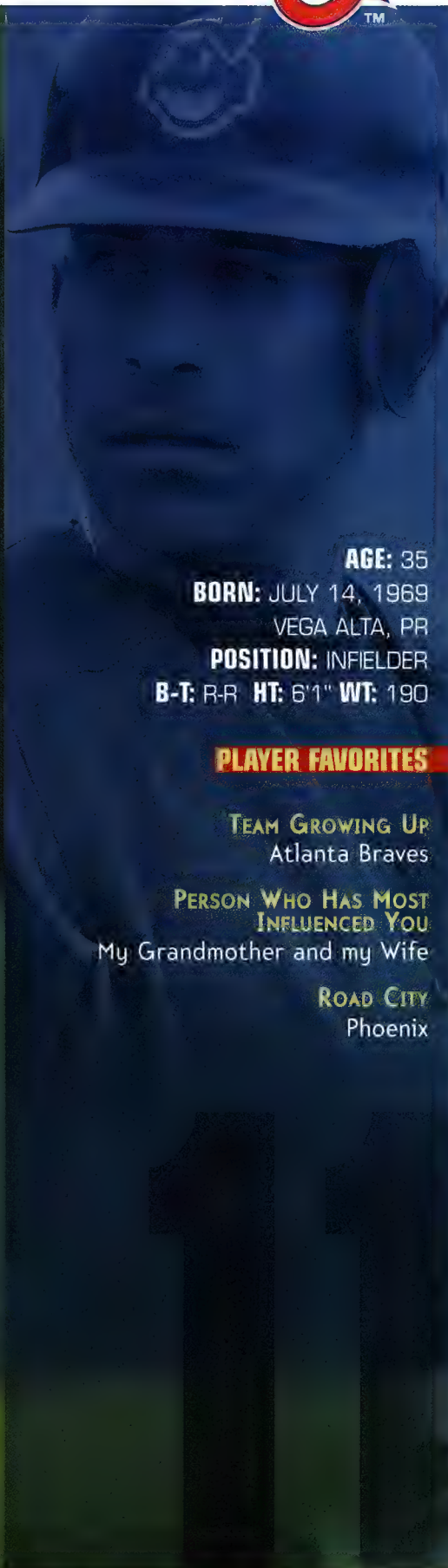
Texas Rangers

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**

My Father

ROAD CITY

Chicago



AGE: 35

BORN: JULY 14, 1969

VEGA ALTA, PR

POSITION: INFILDER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'1" **WT:** 190

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP

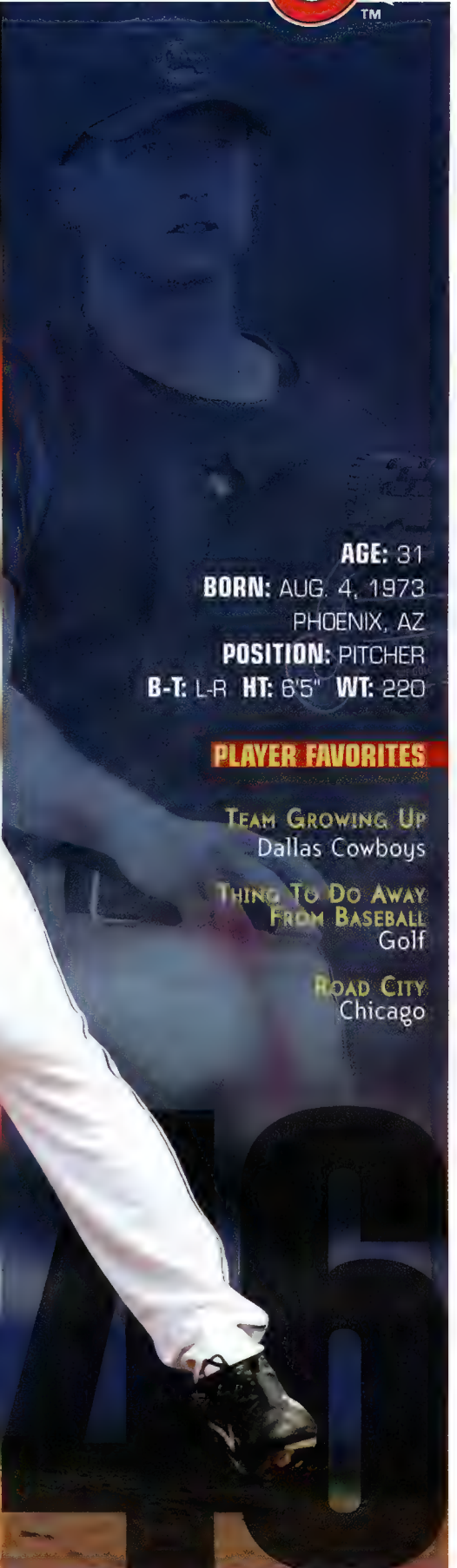
Atlanta Braves

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**

My Grandmother and my Wife

ROAD CITY

Phoenix



AGE: 31

BORN: AUG. 4, 1973

PHOENIX, AZ

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: L-R **HT:** 6'5" **WT:** 220

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP
Dallas Cowboys

THING TO DO AWAY FROM BASEBALL
Golf

ROAD CITY
Chicago

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Photo: Gregory Drezdson

[illegible]



AGE: 26

BORN: AUG. 30, 1978

BENTON, AR

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: L-L **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 190

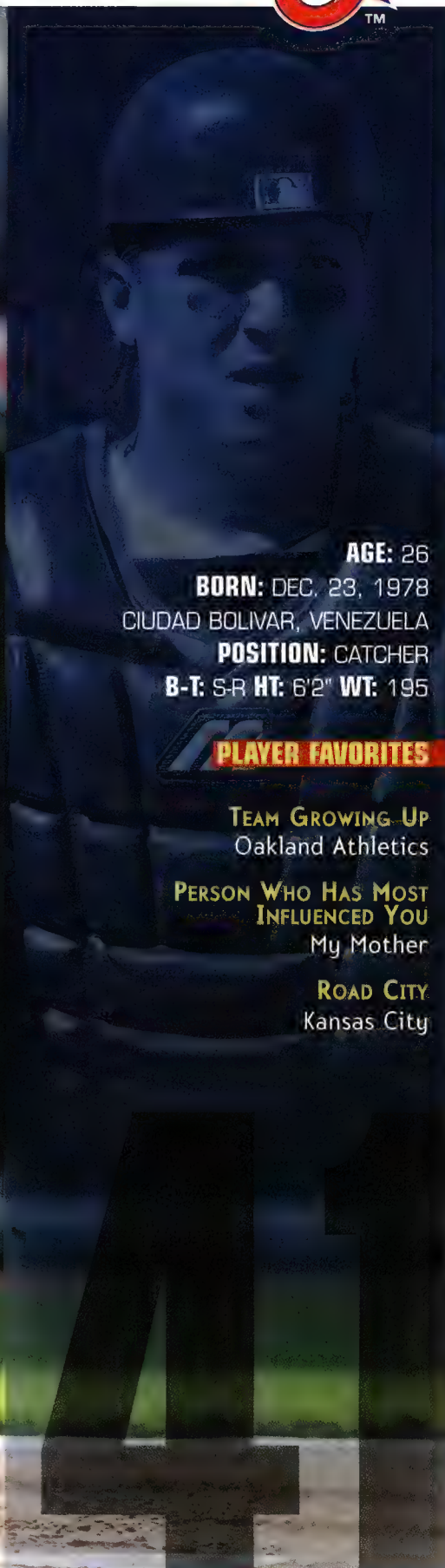
PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE:
Braveheart

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**
Wes Garner

ROAD CITY
Kansas City

31



AGE: 26

BORN: DEC. 23, 1978

CIUDAD BOLIVAR, VENEZUELA

POSITION: CATCHER

B-T: S-R **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 195

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP

Oakland Athletics

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**

My Mother

ROAD CITY

Kansas City



AGE: 33

BORN: NOVEMBER 23, 1971
GREENWOOD, MS

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 215

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP
Boston Red Sox

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**
My Mother

ROAD CITY
Seattle



AGE: 30

BORN: DEC. 24, 1974

GASTONIA, NC

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'4" **WT:** 230

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Forrest Gump

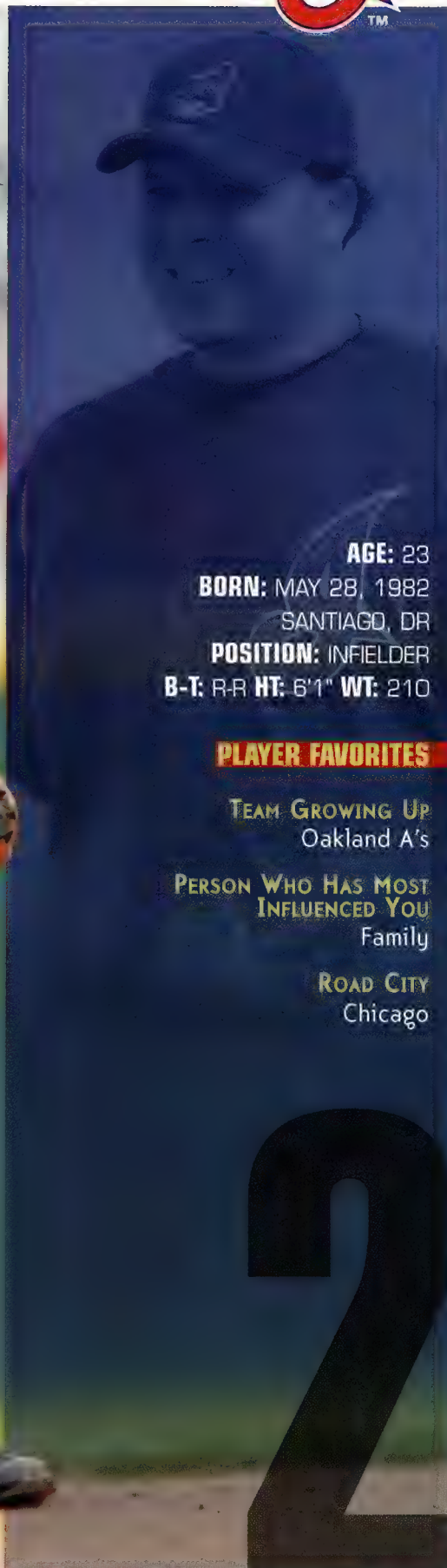
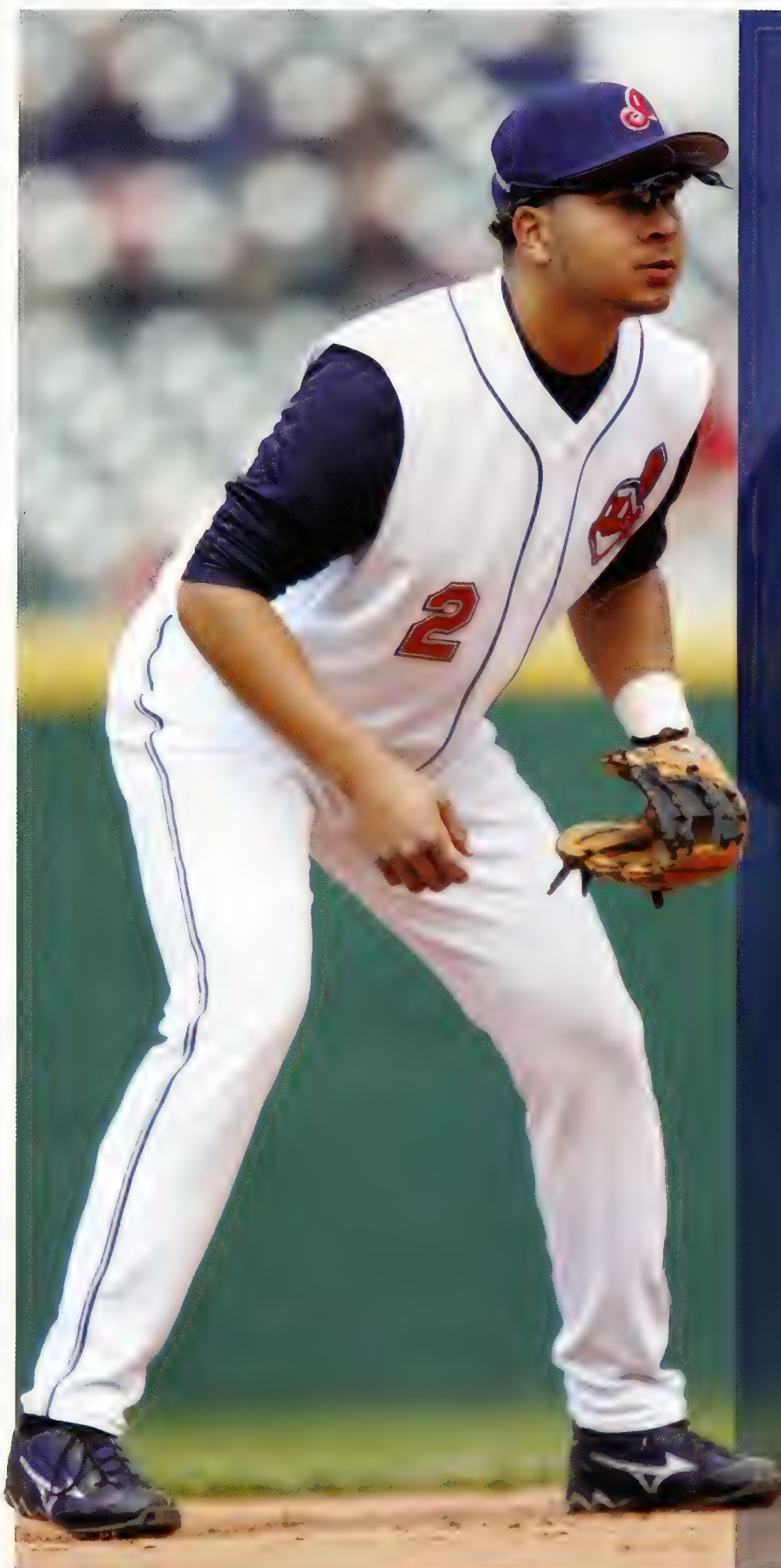
**THING TO DO AWAY
FROM BASEBALL**

Hunt

HOME CITY

San Diego





AGE: 23

BORN: MAY 28, 1982

SANTIAGO, DR

POSITION: INFILDER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'1" **WT:** 210

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP

Oakland A's

PERSON WHO HAS MOST

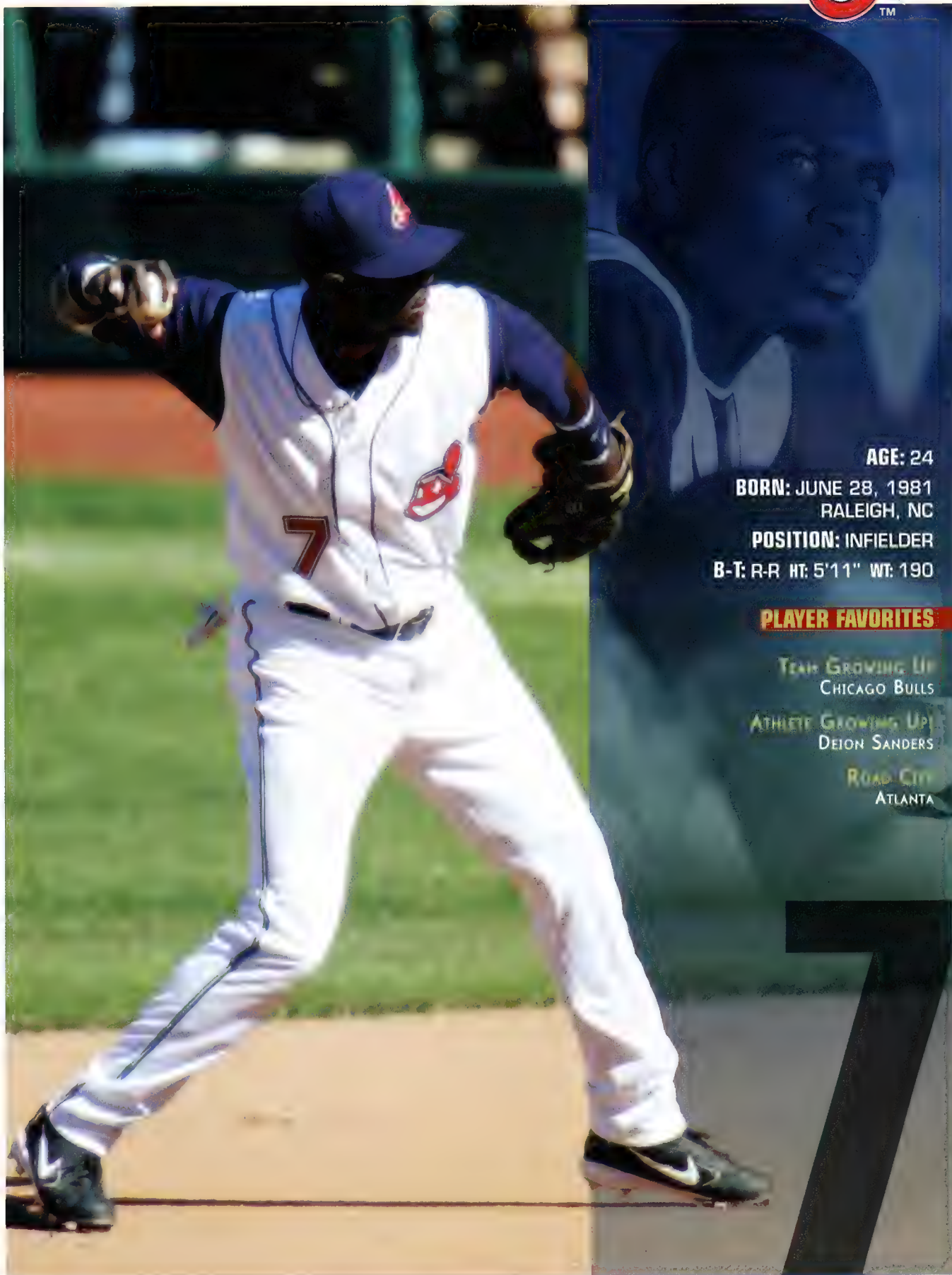
INFLUENCED YOU

Family

ROAD CITY

Chicago

2



AGE: 24

BORN: JUNE 28, 1981
RALEIGH, NC

POSITION: INFIELDER

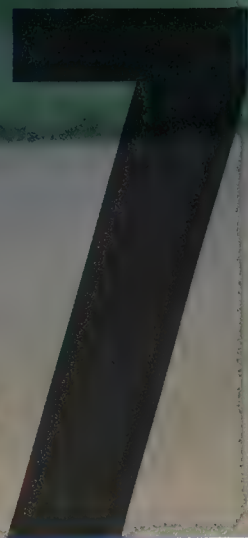
B-T: R-R HT: 5'11" WT: 190

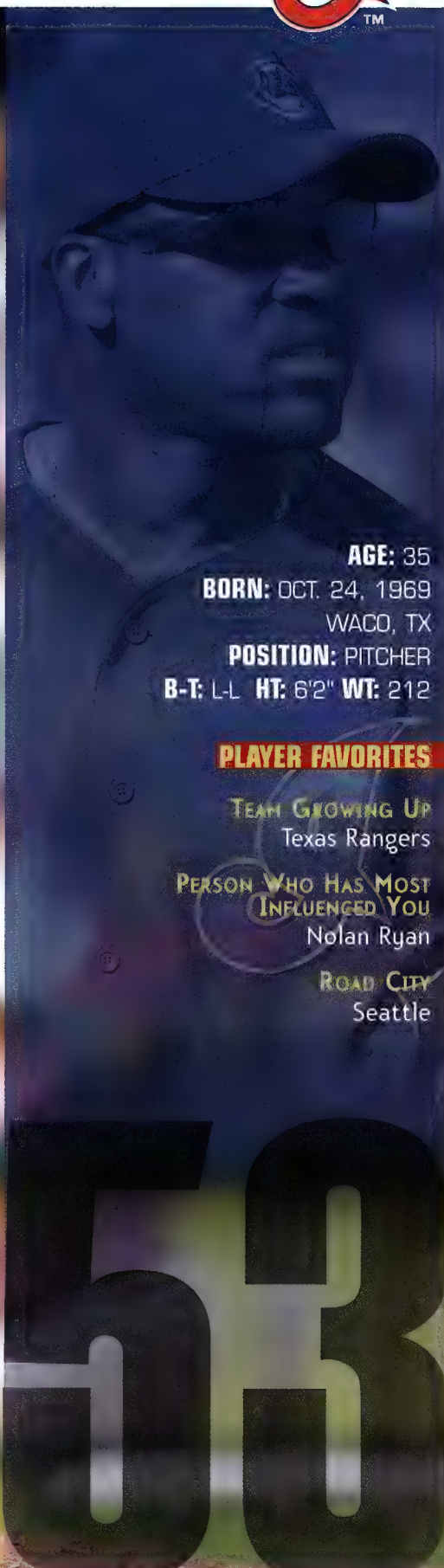
PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP:
CHICAGO BULLS

ATHLETE GROWING UP:
DEION SANDERS

ROAD CITY:
ATLANTA





AGE: 35

BORN: OCT. 24, 1969

WACO, TX

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: L-L **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 212

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP

Texas Rangers

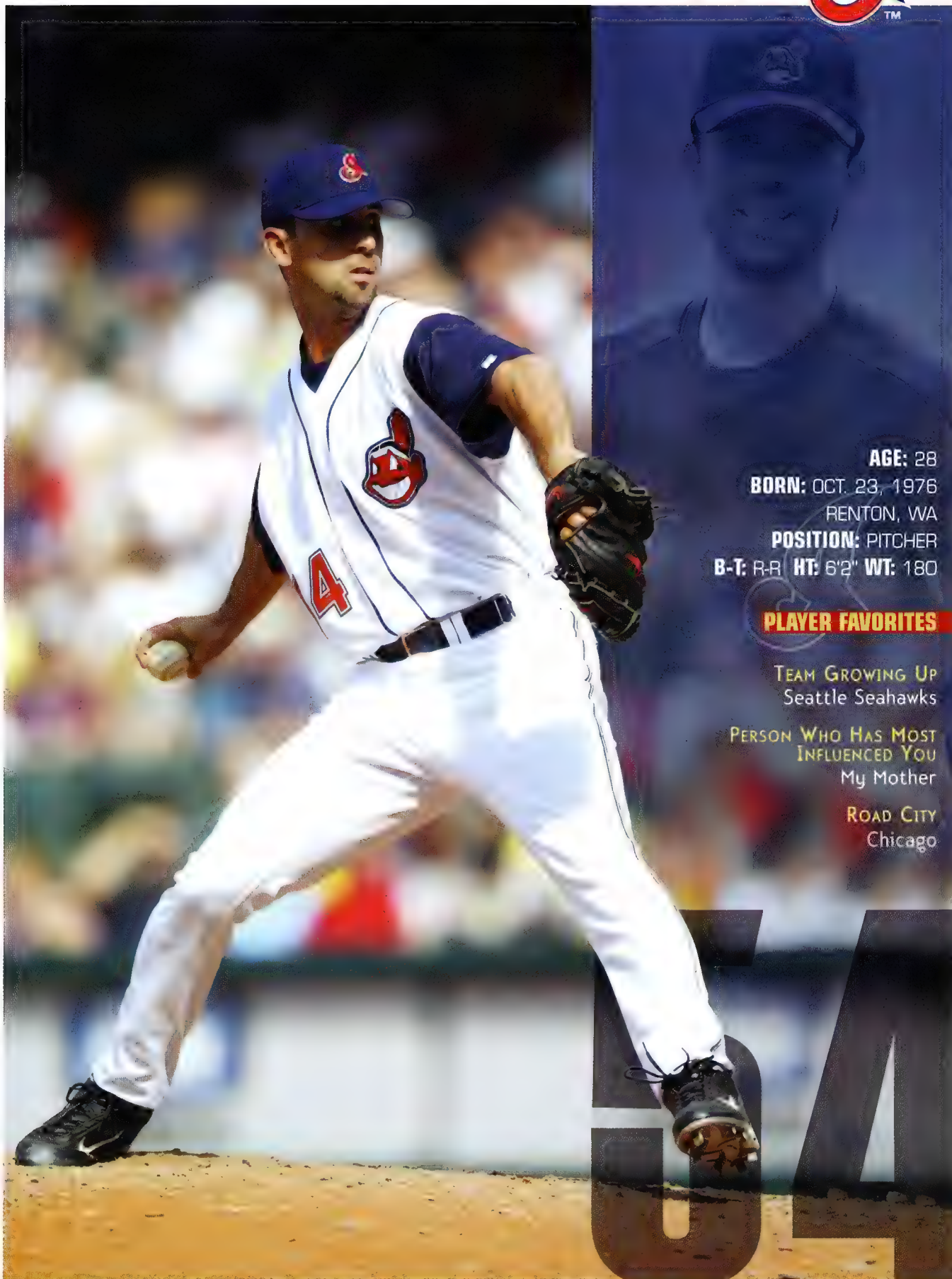
**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**

Nolan Ryan

ROAD CITY

Seattle

53



AGE: 28

BORN: OCT. 23, 1976

RENTON, WA

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 180

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP

Seattle Seahawks

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**

My Mother

ROAD CITY

Chicago



AGE: 24

BORN: JULY 21, 1980

VALLEJO, CA

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: L-L **HT:** 6'7" **WT:** 290

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP

Oakland Raiders

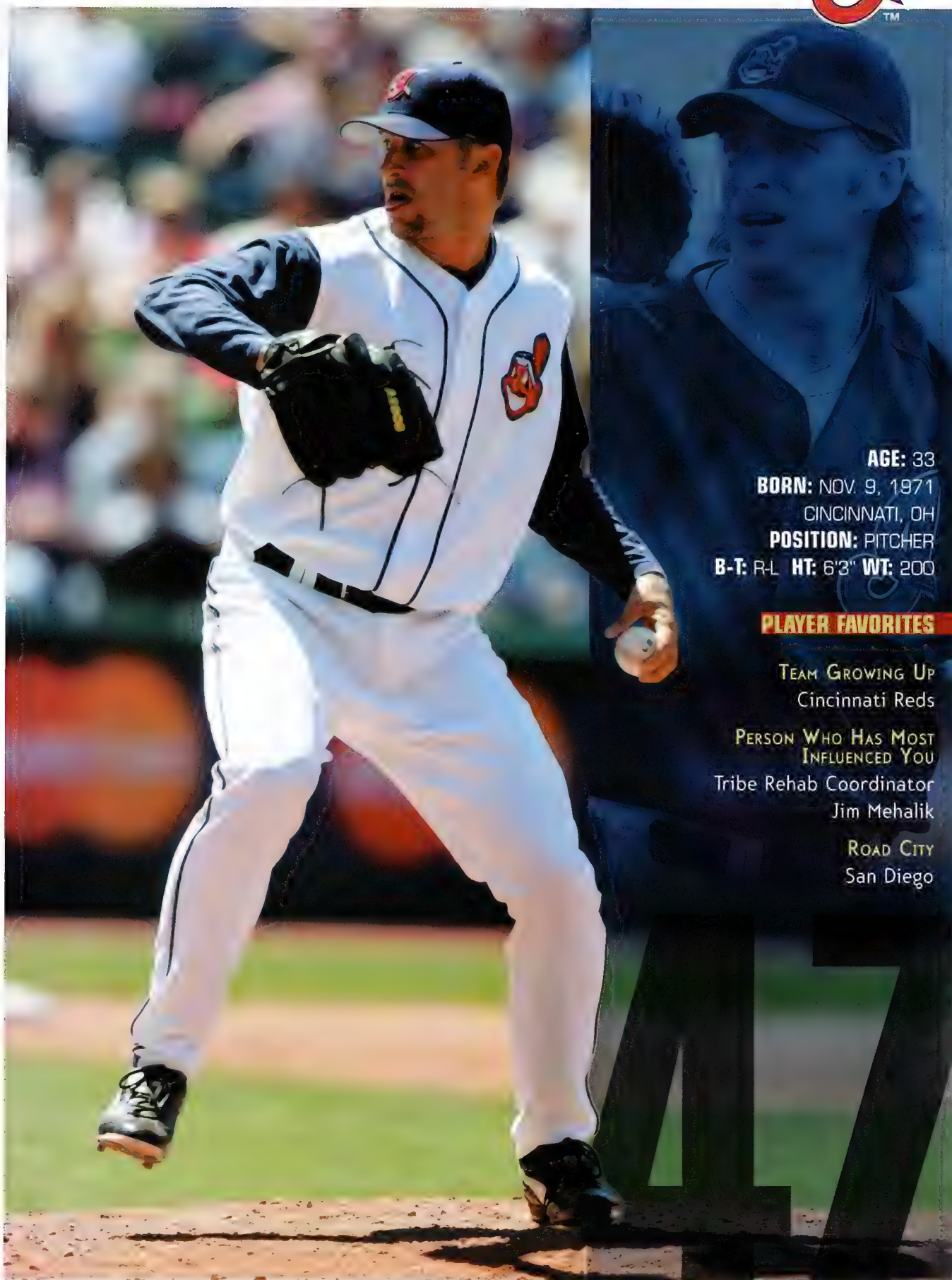
**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**

My Mother

ROAD CITY

Chicago

52



AGE: 33

BORN: NOV. 9, 1971

CINCINNATI, OH

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-L **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 200

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP

Cincinnati Reds

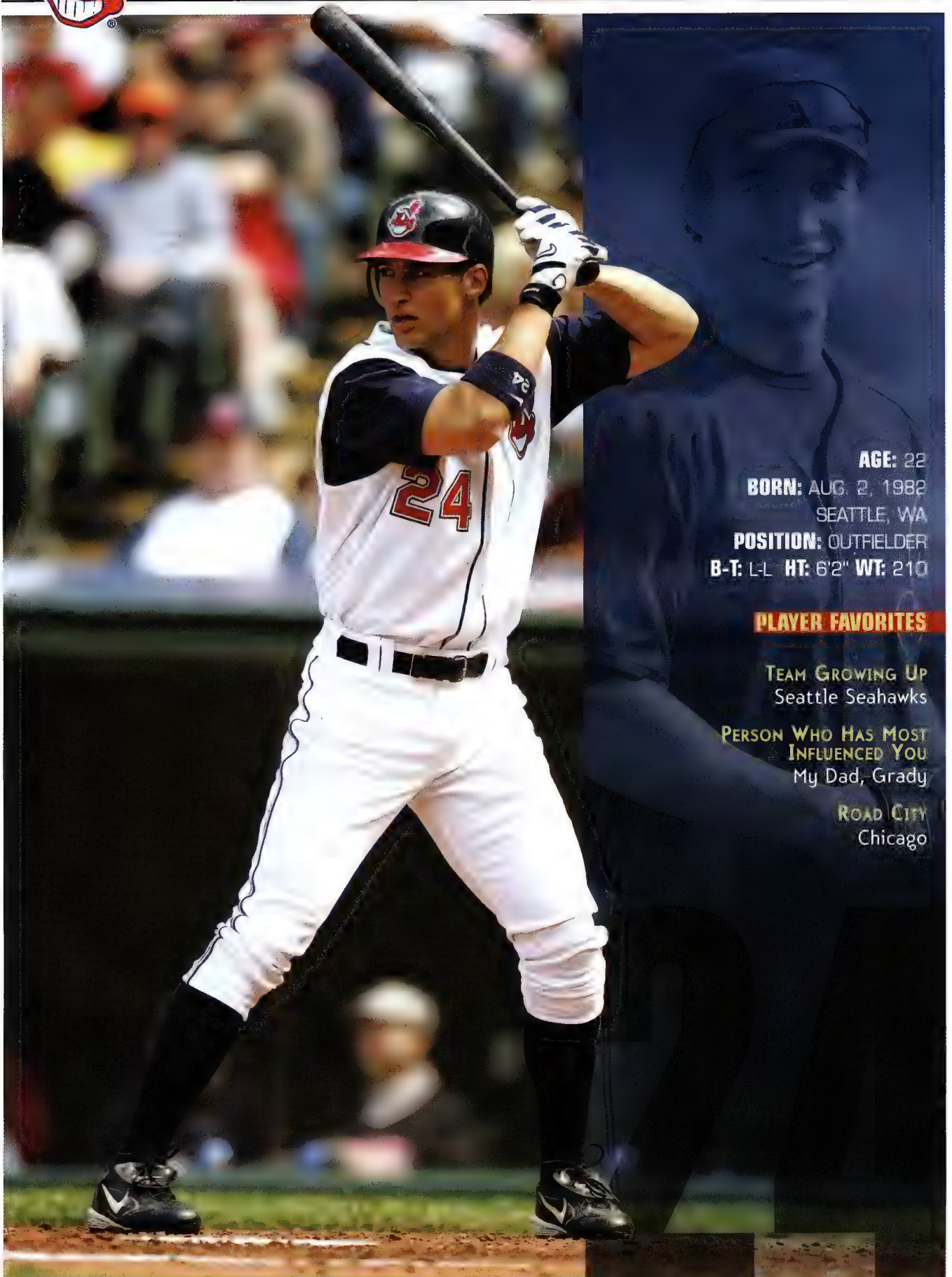
**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**

Tribe Rehab Coordinator

Jim Mehalik

ROAD CITY

San Diego



AGE: 22

BORN: AUG. 2, 1982

SEATTLE, WA

POSITION: OUTFIELDER

B-T: L-L **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 210

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP

Seattle Seahawks

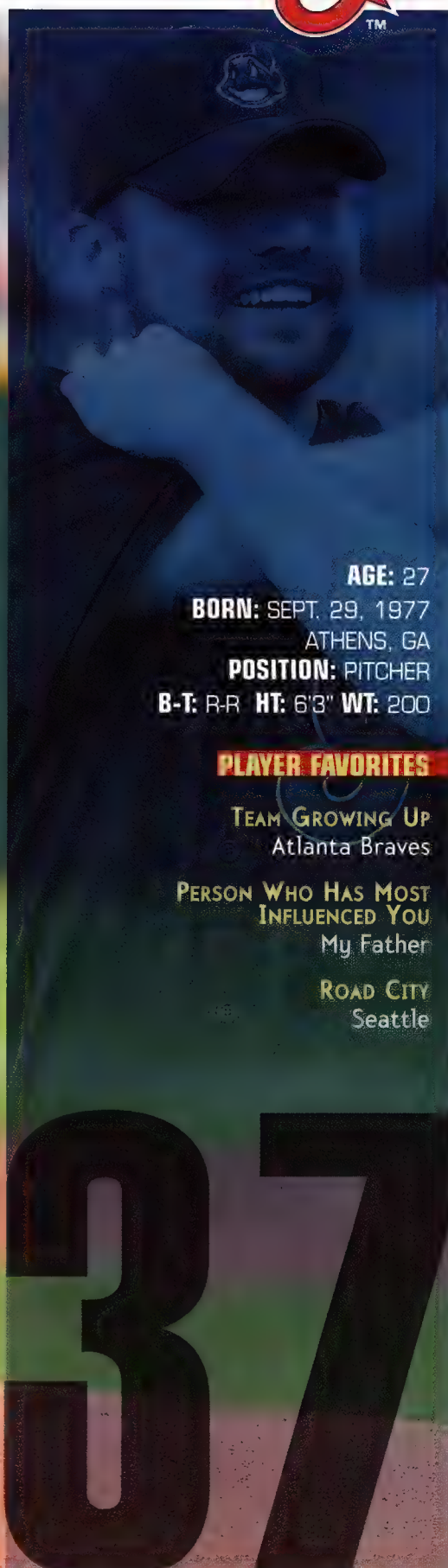
PERSON WHO HAS MOST

INFLUENCED YOU

My Dad, Grady

ROAD CITY

Chicago



AGE: 27

BORN: SEPT. 29, 1977

ATHENS, GA

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 200

PLAYER FAVORITES

TEAM GROWING UP
Atlanta Braves

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**
My Father

ROAD CITY
Seattle

37



AGE: 36
BORN: FEB. 6, 1969
GREEN BAY, WI
POSITION: PITCHER
B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'1" **WT:** 240

PLAYER FAVORITES

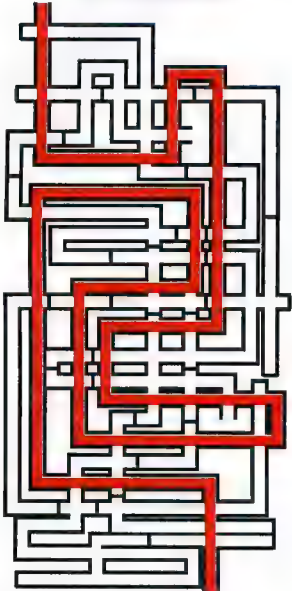
TEAM GROWING UP
Green Bay Packers

**PERSON WHO HAS MOST
INFLUENCED YOU**
My Wife, Sue

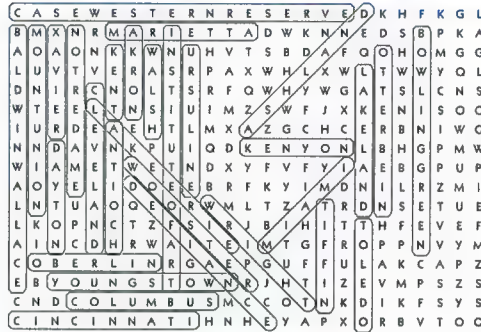
ROAD CITY
Chicago

ANSWERS!

**Hall
PASS!**



Kickin' It Old School!



**Extra
Credit!**

Home
Some
Sore
Wore
Worm
Work

**SUBJECT
MATTERS!**



Photo: Gregory Drezdron

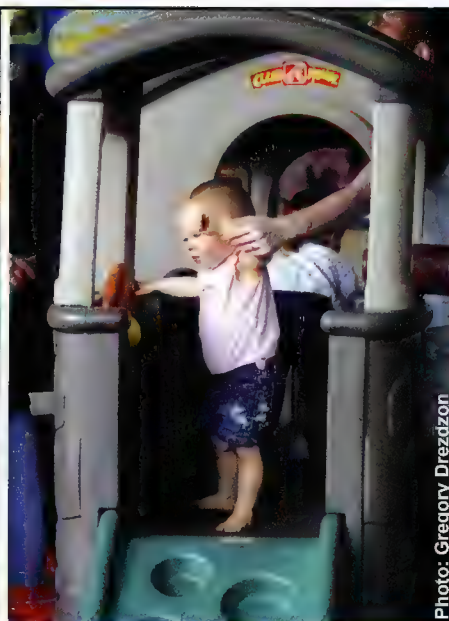


Photo: Gregory Drezdron



KIDSLAND AT JACOBS FIELD

... A Special Place for Kids

Kidsland is located behind Section 117

**University Hospitals
HealthSystem**



Rainbow Babies
& Children's Hospital

Every SUNDAY is Kids FUN Day

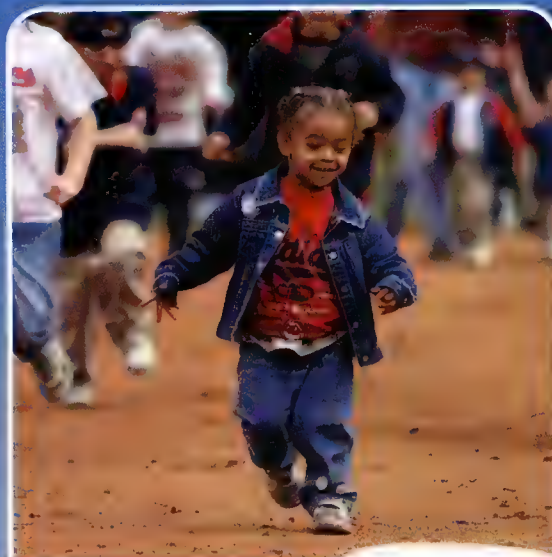
Kids Run The Bases

BEST CUTS

Kids Starting Lineup

Signature Sunday Meet The Players

Hang out with Slider,
Inflatables, Fun Activities, and
more on Gateway Plaza from
11:30 AM until gametime!



All photos: Gregory Drezdson



TEAM PRIDE TEE SHIRT

From Nutmeg.

ADULT SIZES M-2X. \$14.95

YOUTH 8-20 SIZES S-XL. \$12.95

BOYS 4-7 SIZES S-L. \$9.95

INDIANS POLYCARBONATE BOTTLE \$8.00

From Betras Plastics.

I LOVE INDIANS BROOCH \$12.00

From Aminco.

TEAM PRIDE TEE SHIRT
From Nutmeg.
ADULT SIZES M-2X. \$14.95
YOUTH 8-20 SIZES S-XL. \$12.95
BOYS 4-7 SIZES S-L. \$9.95

TURNDOWN SHORT CREW SOCK \$8.00
From For Bare Feet. Sizes 7-9, 9-11, 10-13.

INDIANS WRAP SUNGLASSES \$10.00
From Hunter.

INDIANS POLYCARBONATE BOTTLE \$8.00
From Betras Plastics.



TEAM PRIDE SWEATSHIRT

From Nutmeg.

ADULT SIZES M-2X. \$24.95

YOUTH 8-20 SIZES M-XL. \$22.95

BOYS 4-7 SIZES S-L. \$16.95

INDIANS CARABINER KEY TAG \$6.00

From Peter David.

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To Order Call 1.800.38TRIBE



PLAYER SIGNATURE TEE SHIRT

From Nutmeg.

ADULT SIZES M-2X. \$20.00

YOUTH SIZES S-XL. \$16.00

Crisp (youth available)

Martinez (youth available)

YOUTH CRISP CAP \$15.00

From New Era. Ages 6-10 years.



PLAYER SIGNATURE TEE SHIRT

From Nutmeg.

ADULT SIZES M-2X. \$20.00

YOUTH SIZES S-XL. \$16.00

Hafner (youth available)

Sabathia (youth available)

SIGNATURE PRONK CAP \$20.00

From Twins. Adjustable.

PLAYER SIGNATURE TEE SHIRT

From Nutmeg.

ADULT SIZES M-2X. \$20.00

Belliard

Broussard

PLAYER JERSEY BASEBALLS \$5.00

From Rawlings.

Casey Blake

Aaron Boone

Ronnie Belliard

Victor Martinez

Travis Hafner

C.C. Sabathia

Coco Crisp

MINI GLOVE BALLHOLDER \$8.00

From Rawlings.



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From Majestic. Sizes 40-56.

AUTHENTIC ROAD CAP \$25.00

From New Era. Sizes 6-7/8" to 7-5/8".

AUTHENTIC HOME JERSEY \$180.00

From Majestic. Sizes 40-56.

AUTHENTIC HOME CAP \$25.00

From New Era. Sizes 6-7/8" to 7-5/8".



AUTHENTIC TEE SHIRT \$18.00

From Majestic. Sizes M-2X.

AUTHENTIC ALTERNATE HOME CAP \$25.00

From New Era. Sizes 6-7/8" to 7-5/8".

AUTHENTIC PREMIER JACKET \$110.00

From Majestic. Sizes M-2X.



AUTHENTIC BATTING PRACTICE CAP \$25.00

From New Era. Sizes S/M, M/L, L/XL.

AUTHENTIC BATTING PRACTICE JERSEY \$68.00

From Majestic. Sizes M-2X.

OFFICIAL MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL \$18.00

From Rawlings. Ball holder included.



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SouthPark Centre, Strongsville	440.572.8305
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Mail Order	1.800.38.TRIBE

BEN BROUSSARD

First Baseman

A BUDDING MUSIC CAREER. NEW DAD DUTIES.

And, oh yeah, that whole baseball thing. Is it any wonder why his locker isn't high on Ben Broussard's to-do list? "I don't really give my locker that much thought, to be honest with you," he says. "Having said that, now that we're going through it, maybe I should clean this thing up, huh?"

1. BABY PICTURES

Mia was born in June. She's totally changed our lives. My wife, Brenda, and I waited a long time before having a baby — she didn't want to feel like a single mom with me being on the road so much. I think I'll be making up for it with diaper duty when we're home, though.

2. COLLARED SHIRT

We're supposed to wear either a collared shirt or a nice T-shirt to the Ballpark. It's more of an unspoken team rule than an official one, but trust me, some vets will let you know if they see you wearing something questionable.

3. JERSEY

My first two years in the bigs I was No. 28. Then when Ellis Burks left, I switched back to my old high school and college number, 23. I always like numbers in the low 20s for some reason.

4. BASEBALL PANTS

Right now, I like wearing my pants a little higher, which means I'll wear low-top shoes. Sometimes it's the opposite — lower pants with high tops. Some guys can pull off the low pants/low shoes or high pants/high shoes. I'm not one of them.

5. BOOK

It's a book titled "Mental Keys to Hitting." I've never touched it. I'm one of those guys who doesn't like to think at the plate. I'd much rather just react to the ball.

6. PITCHING GLOVE

It's one of Cliff Lee's pitching gloves. I got him to sign it for my "collection." Y'know, I used to be a pretty good pitcher in college. Maybe one day when we're blowing somebody out, I'll lobby to let me get out there and show them what I've got.

7. HAFNER BOBBLEHEAD

That's a Travis Hafner bobblehead. I'm trying to start some kind of collection of things from guys I play with or guys I play against. I'd love to have a room full of memorabilia someday. Of course that would start with me bringing things home and not leaving them in my locker, wouldn't it?

— Lane Strauss

All photos: Gregory Drezdson

